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PARROTS



MONKEYS





10

PARROTS AND MONKEYS.





FOREST GAMBOLS.

PARROTS AND MONKEYS

BY THE
AUTHOR OF "THE KNIGHTS OF THE FROZEN SEA,"
ETC., ETC.

WITH TWENTY-SIX ILLUSTRATIONS



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PARROTS AND MONKEYS.

INTRODUCTION.



FOREST deep, and in some places very dark; a burning sun overhead, which makes its rays felt wherever there is an opening in the trees; tall trunks, in some places so thickly set together that myriads of creatures can hide behind them, even though many of these creatures be of considerable size; large, and often interlaced boughs above; and below, thick underwood and a luxuriant floral vegetation—picture such a place, and you have the favourite home of the monkey and the parrot.

The climbing animal and the climbing bird, in fact, love the same haunts ; and the regions in which they dwell are found in a wide belt round the earth's centre, a good deal wider than that included within the tropics.

In a sense, too, they like each other's company—not that they are exactly friends, but that each finds the other fair game for the exercise of its own fun and mischief.

These two qualities, as we know well, survive the shock of a change to an English home, or even of an English cage, and cause both creatures to be generally considered as the most diverting of all our domestic pets ; while certainly their intellectual powers—if we may use such an expression—bring them nearer to the human species than any other bird or beast.

Naturalists universally place the “four-handed animals” in the first order, that is, before even that headed by the king of beasts. And many incline to put the parrot before the king of birds, because its brain is larger than that of any other winged creature ; but on other grounds the learned are divided, and it remains

therefore in the third order—namely, that of the climbing birds.

Still, though I have said that the monkey and the parrot love the same haunts, it must not be supposed that they never dwell apart, for that would not be true.

On the contrary, there are apes in Barbary, and no parrots either there or anywhere along the north of Africa; and there are parrots in Australia, and in many of the Polynesian islands where no monkeys are found.

Our largest specimens of the ape kind are met with in Africa; but we can hardly fancy the gorilla or the chimpanzee as given to playing with parrots, or any such-like trivialities. Both these creatures are found on the banks of the river Gaboon, which is in Guinea; and the gorilla only there; nor is it to be desired that these hideous races should spread.

The grey parrot, the cleverest of its species, and perhaps the gravest, is a native of the same part of Africa. But other monkeys live thereabouts also, and other parrots; and no doubt between some of these monkeys and the merriest-hearted birds, including the younger greys, many

an exciting game takes place, and "fun is poked," and tails are pulled, and fingers pecked, and feathers plucked, until the forests ring with shriek and shout, as the sun rises and till the sun sets, in one never-ending, exciting romp, of which we poor humans know neither the pleasures nor the pains.





CHAPTER I.

THE CHIEF OF THE APES.

FOR centuries on centuries these forest-pleasures have gone on, observed only by the wild and savage natives of the land, and undisturbed by the intrusion of any civilized beings, to whom little besides the northern coasts of Africa was familiar until quite modern times.

The other coasts were, indeed, so far as we know, unvisited except on one occasion two thousand years ago, when the old Carthaginians fitted out a fleet, with the object of examining the continent, and colonizing where they could.

It was a very remarkable expedition, and consisted of sixty large ships, containing about thirty thousand men and women ; and they proceeded as far as Sierra Leone, founding seven

colonies in their way. Then for want of provisions they had to turn back, and Hanno, the commander, afterwards wrote a particular account of his voyage, which may be read at this day.

He narrates many strange adventures, and among others, the finding of what evidently were gorillas; and which, indeed, the interpreters called *gorillæ*. It was on an island of the western coast, and, says Hanno, "There were more females than males, and all were equally covered with hair on all parts of the body. They could not take a single male," he adds, "for they all escaped; and the three females caught defended themselves with so much violence, that they were obliged to kill them, but they took their skins stuffed with straw to Carthage."

This huge ape, which the Carthaginians seem to have regarded as a specially savage sort of man, was rediscovered by the famous African traveller, Mr. Bowdich. He called it "Ingheena," from a word used by the natives who first told him about it; and he described the creature as always walking on its hind feet, and given to imitate the actions of human beings in a senseless sort of way: building huts, like men, and then

living on the outside ; picking up elephants' tusks, like the ivory hunters, and then carrying their burdens till they died of fatigue, because they did not know what to do with them.

The natives told Mr. Bowdich that this ferocious creature was never taken alive. They were clearly the same animals seen by Hanno, of which during all that long interval, nothing had been heard except in the form of strange tales of wild men and satyrs living in the woods.

And it is not much to be wondered at ; for these creatures are really the most hideous imitations of men, enormously powerful, and very savage. Naturalists are very curious about their habits ; but it is almost impossible for them to know much, because no one can live near enough to their haunts to watch them. Right away in the depths of the deepest, thickest forests, these terrible gorillas dwell ; and they are said to have such an antipathy to human beings, that if they see a man they instantly attack him.

Moreover, they appear to do so out of a horrible spite, or at least make a ghastly sport of it. Lions and tigers kill, as man himself does, for the purposes of food ; but the gorilla does not care to

eat a man when he has killed him. He hides himself amidst the thick boughs of the trees, and when he sees a poor negro pass, he lets down his hind foot, on which there is an enormous thumb, seizes the poor fellow by the throat, lifts him off the ground, and at last drops him, dead. After that the fiendish brute goes away and leaves him.

We should detest such an animal, and try to exterminate the race ; but the negro does not detest—he dreads, and almost respects, the creature for its strength. And as their kings are the most cruel and the most powerful men whom they know, they are said to believe that the spirits of these kings pass after death into the gorillas.

After all, that seems a more reasonable notion than the extraordinary one that human beings are descendants—improved descendants—of these brutes! For, in fact, notwithstanding the hideous caricature, there are vast and radical differences in the structure of all apes and that of man. The gorilla is an ape, and stands at the head of the order as the largest and most highly organized. In it every part of the body in which physical strength lies is hugely developed. It is not a

biped, but a four-handed animal ; and though it *can* stand upright and walk on its hind legs only, it is not natural to it to do so, nor is it easy. This is partly because the knees are bent inwards, and partly owing to the manner in which the head is set on the shoulders. If we look at a human skeleton, or at a picture of one, we see that the head is so balanced on the top of the spine that a great part of the skull projects behind, and that the spinal cord enters the brain through an opening near the centre. But in all the monkey tribe this opening is at the back, leaving the head to fall forwards, and naturally downwards also. Besides, man's long neck, lifting the head as on a pedestal, above the shoulders, is wanting ; the ape's head sinks between his shoulders. In the gorilla, all the joint bones of the body are enormous,—his shoulders, his elbows, his knees, his wrists, and his ankles. He has nothing that can be called a forehead, or a nose, properly speaking, for the nostrils lie flat on his great proboscis ; his jaw-bone is immense, his teeth are like tusks, and his ungainly arms reach down to his knees. It seems more easy to believe that desperate characters have degenerated into such creatures, than that man, who was

created in the image of God, could possibly have originally descended from them ; but of course there is no foundation even for this idea.

These wild men of the woods, though imitative, have no reasoning power ; they seem more really devoid of sense than other monkeys. For instance, a gorilla may find a fire left by some travellers, and he will sit over the embers as long as any heat remains, without ever thinking of putting on more fuel. The natives say that they pretend to be stupid in order to escape being taken as slaves and made to work.

Mr. Wood remarks that young apes are docile and teachable, but that, as seems a merciful rule, they degenerate in mind as their bodies attain strength ; and moreover, that these huge gorilla apes appear to live much alone, and fortunately never appear in large troops, as baboons and other monkeys do. Did they do so, the poor bushmen, the smallest of men, and among the lowest, would soon be altogether exterminated. The bushman seldom attains a height greater than five feet, while the gorilla grows to five feet six inches, or perhaps more.

A male gorilla has sometimes several female companions ; but there is never more than one male in a band. When this male sees a hunter approaching, he utters a terrific yell that resounds through the forest, a noise that may be described as Kh—ah ! Kh—ah ! His enormous jaws widen at each sound, displaying his huge tusks, and at the very first cry the females and young disappear, while he goes forward to meet his foe, still uttering his horrid yells.

It is stated that then, if the hunter's aim be not sure, he will sometimes allow the gorilla to come up to him and seize the barrel of his gun, which he is sure to put to his mouth, and as he does so, the hunter fires. But to kill a gorilla is considered a great feat.

These animals, however, are, as I have said, but very little known, and some persons now seem to doubt the truth of the stories of their extreme ferocity, whether with good reason or not remains to be seen, should any person succeed in becoming better acquainted with them.

The Gorilla of Western Africa was brought into notice by Du Chaillu, some twenty years ago. It had been heard of long before, and was believed to

exist; but Du Chaillu made it an object of search, and succeeded in placing its existence beyond a doubt.

In other parts of the world, apes of this size had been found, but only in a few instances, their strength rendering it difficult to take them alive. In the 15th volume of the "Asiatic Researches" (dated 1825), we have a detailed account given by Dr. Clarke Abel, of a gigantic ape, found and killed in Sumatra. Dr. Abel described the conflict, in which, at length, a whole boat's crew succeeded in killing the animal. Capt. Cornfoot, who received the remains when brought on board his ship, says, "He was a full head taller than any man on board, measuring seven feet in an ordinary posture, and eight feet when stretched out for the purpose of being skinned." Dr. Abel, who examined the remains, says that they measured, from the shoulder to the ankle, five feet ten inches—giving about seven feet six inches as the probable height of the animal. The hand measured one foot in length.

Du Chaillu's narratives have been charged with exaggeration; but it is evident, and beyond a doubt, that, thirty years before he visited Africa,

an ape had been killed in Sumatra, considerably exceeding in size those gorillas of whom he wrote in 1860, and concerning which he found men hard of belief.

During his last journey in Africa, Dr. Livingstone was presented with a young Soko monkey, which had been taken when its mother was killed. He thus describes it. "She sits," he says, "eighteen inches high, has fine long black hair all over, which was pretty so long as it was kept in order by her dam. She is the least mischievous of all the monkey tribe I have seen, and seems to know that in me she has a friend, and sits quietly on the mat beside me. In walking, the first thing observed is that she does not tread on the palms of her hands, but on the backs of the second line of bones of the hands; in doing this the nails do not touch the ground, nor do the knuckles; she uses the arms thus supported crutch fashion, and hitches herself along between them. Occasionally one hand is put down before the other, and alternates with the feet, or she walks upright, and holds up a hand to any one to carry her. If refused, she turns her face down, and makes grimaces of the most bitter human

weeping, wringing her hands, and sometimes adding a fourth hand or foot to make the appeal more touching. Grass or leaves she draws round her to make a nest, and resents any one's meddling with her property. She is a most friendly little beast, and came up to me at once, making her chirrup of welcome, smelt my clothing, and held out her hand to be shaken. I slapped her palm without offence, though she winced. She began to untie the cord with which she was afterwards bound, with fingers and thumbs, in quite a systematic way, and, on being interfered with by a man, looked daggers, and, screaming, tried to beat him with her hands; she was afraid of his stick, and faced him, putting her back to me as a friend. She holds out her hand for people to lift her up and carry her, quite like a spoilt child; then bursts into a passionate cry, somewhat like that of a kite, wrings her hands quite naturally, as if in despair. She eats everything, covers herself with a mat to sleep, makes a nest of grass or leaves, and wipes her face with a leaf."

Now, Dr. Livingstone speaks of this animal as a Soko, or gorilla. Why he gives it the latter

name it is hard to guess, for it neither lived in that part of Africa which gorillas are supposed alone to inhabit, nor does the description in the least answer to that which most other travellers have given of this animal.





CHAPTER II.

SECOND IN RANK.

ALL the Old World monkey kind are classed by naturalists under the name of Simiadæ; the New World kinds as Cebidæ.

Among the Simiadæ are apes, or monkeys without tails; baboons, monkeys with short tails; and monkeys, commonly so called, which are smaller creatures, with long tails.

The one great characteristic common to both kinds and to their cousins, the Lemurs, is their having four hands, not four feet; from which they are called Quadrumana, or four-handed animals.

THE CHIMPANZEE.

This is an old acquaintance, and no new discovery or rediscovery. It inhabits the same part

of Western Africa as the gorilla, but it is also found over a large territory about the torrid zone.

The chimpanzee is a very near kinsman of the gorilla, but neither so large nor, happily, so fierce; for it goes in much greater numbers. It is a yellow-skinned ape, with long black hair, a great projecting muzzle, large whiskers, and a small beard. It is at night that the chimpanzee is out, and making the woods resound with his yells and shouts.

The natives say that it can build or weave huts for itself, though these are supposed to be chiefly for the benefit of the female and young, the male animal generally taking up a position on the top of the hut.

One thing seems pretty certain; namely, that these apes do not live in trees as others do, but on the ground, where, as they are very strong, and keep together in large troops, they are quite secure.

Only one live gorilla has been exhibited in England; but many a chimpanzee has been brought into honourable captivity.

Like all monkeys, however, the chimpanzee

needs a hot climate, and when he comes here he is pretty certain soon to fall into a consumption from the cold and damp. A most melancholy thing it is to see the poor creature then sit pining and shivering, now coughing terribly, and now putting its hand to its chest, and complaining, in its own way, of the terrible pain.

Chimpanzees, unlike their gorilla cousins, are sometimes quite gentle, and can be taught to wear clothes, and even to like to wrap themselves in rugs and blankets. Indeed, it sometimes appears as if they took delight in making themselves look smart; and Mr. Wood tells us of one that was so pleased with a new dress, that he would have nothing to do with his old one after he got the fresh garment, and when he discovered that there was a chance of having to wear the old one again, he took the first opportunity of tearing it to shreds.

All apes seem to have a certain amount of regard for their own species, and to feel great indignation when a stranger wounds one of their number; and these chimpanzees seem to understand that a man does the injury with his gun. Their anger, therefore, is directed against that;

and so if a man finds himself in danger from an angry troop of them on account of the injury that one has sustained, his best way is to throw the gun away from him ; for then, while the apes are gathered round it, engaged in breaking it to pieces, he can make off and escape.

It is supposed that these animals live about as long as the human inhabitants of the country.

There have been stories told of chimpanzees fighting with clubs ; but the fact that these creatures cannot without difficulty walk any distance in an upright position, and that they have no freedom of action with their arms when standing only on their hind legs, shows that there cannot be much truth in such tales, which are generally got from the natives. When they walk they help themselves with their hands, placing the knuckles on the ground. Besides, their own natural weapons are strong enough. They have such powerful limbs and such awful fangs that they require nothing more.

It is often said of the human countenance that its chief power of expression is in the mouth. But of this and other kinds of ape, it may be

affirmed that the *whole* of that power lies in this feature. An ape's face does not acquire lines of care as a man's does. It has no expressive lines in the forehead, or twinklings about the eyes; but its lips are remarkably flexible; so that, according to the excitement of the moment, the mouth changes its form.

Almost all animals living in a wild state, when they herd in troops appoint a sentinel to give warning of danger. The chimpanzee does this too, and the sentinel, if he see the least thing to alarm him, will utter an agonizing scream, to which the rest reply in barks and yells. They understand that they must combine for mutual defence; but they do not seem to comprehend that silence is more prudent than noise in such circumstances.

Happily, they are not malicious when left in peace; they do not, like the gorilla, seek for human prey, but rather keep away from the habitations and haunts of men. Cuvier says that they are found in Congo as well as in Guinea—a mountainous country, with many valleys and thick forests, in which such fruits as pine-apples and plantains abound; and these interspersed with rice fields and quan-

tities of bananas. This is the sort of country which the chimpanzee loves.

In the colony of Sierra Leone many are found ; and there, near some deserted town, where there are many papau trees, the fruit of which they love, they establish themselves, and build their huts in much the same form as those erected by the natives.

Lieutenant Sayers, who brought one from thence to England, had made the acquaintance of these animals in travelling through a thick jungle, where he heard their terrific cries, but for a time saw nothing. They had got a sight of him, however, and soon the wood was alive with them, and the native guide, in great alarm, entreated him to return.

A hundred and fifty years ago a specimen was brought to England ; and this one, while on board, grew very tame, and attached himself to the crew, though he would have nothing to say to the other monkeys on board. A suit of clothes was made for him, which he was not only pleased to wear, but which he learnt to put on himself, or if he could not manage any article, he would take it to some person on board to have it put on for him.

At night, too, he would lie down on his little bed, put his head on the pillow, and draw the bedclothes over him, like a rational being. But he could not stand our climate, and died soon after his arrival in England.

One of the peculiarities of the chimpanzee, is the very large thumbs on its hind feet, and the short ones on its fore paws. The natives say that sometimes a troop will attack an elephant, or even a lion.

Chimpanzees have their likes and dislikes as well as we. A Captain Payne once bought a female, brought by a native trader from the Gaboon, which, directly she came on board, shook hands with some of the sailors, but turned angrily from others; and though she finally made friends with all the rest, would never be reconciled to one particular boy.

This one was very fond of drinking coffee, and acquired also such a strong taste for wine, that she once stole a bottle, uncorked it with her teeth, and began to drink. She never liked spirits, however. Fine clothes had a great charm for her, and she was delighted to wear them, but was never known to wash herself.



CHIMPANZEE.

Then there was another, who, when on board ship, actually learnt to heat the oven, and knew so well when it was ready for the bread that the baker implicitly trusted to her to call him in time. She also helped to unfurl the sails, splice the ropes, and pull a rope with the sailors.

There was on board this vessel a very brutal mate, who one day beat her most severely and without any just cause. The poor thing bore the punishment with great courage, only holding out her hands to break the force of the blows, and entreating for mercy. But from that time she would eat nothing, and died of grief and hunger on the fifth day, lamented by every one on board except the cruel mate.





CHAPTER III.

INFERIORS IN THE WEST AFRICAN MONKEY KINGDOM.

PERHAPS it may not be a bad plan to classify our two mischievous pets according to the countries which they inhabit. Let us therefore first see what other monkeys are found in the neighbourhood of these two chiefs.

There is a curious sort of baboon, known as the Mandrill, which, with its cousin, the Drill, inhabits the coast of Guinea. This creature has a strange mixture of colour about its face, blue patches about the nostrils, with lines of scarlet and deep azure, and a scarlet snout. The general colour is olive-brown, fading into grey underneath, and the hinder quarters are deep violet.

It is a strange thing that all these colours become

dull if the creature be not well. The female, however, is not so gaily coloured as the male. She has only the blue tint about the muzzle. The young, too, are much quieter in colouring. A mandrill is now stuffed and in the British Museum, which used to rejoice in the name of Happy Jerry, and learned to enjoy a mug of ale, and even to smoke a pipe. The mandrill always fills his pouches with a supply for his next meal, before swallowing what he requires for the moment.

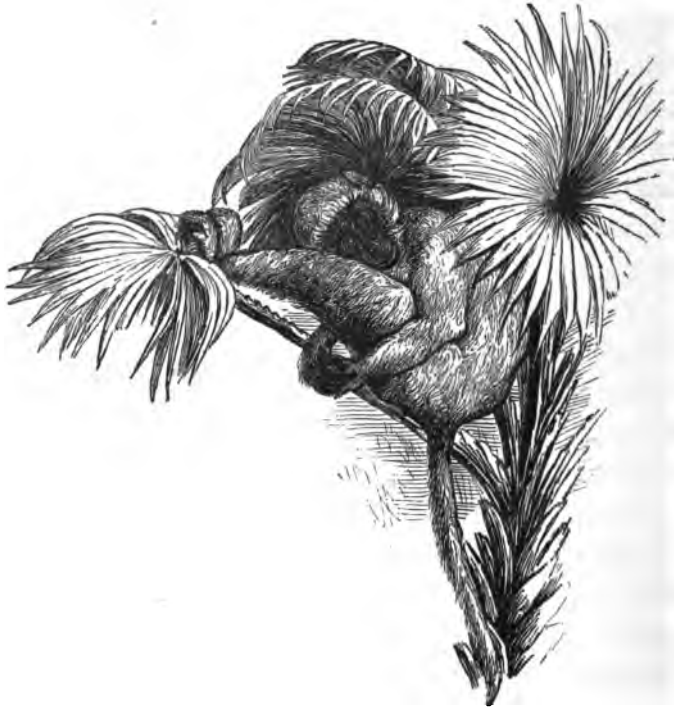
Very seldom is one captured and brought to England, for these mandrills are immensely strong; but his cousin, the drill, which is neither so large nor so brightly coloured, is no unfrequent visitor to our shores.

Then there are some of the Cercopithecii, or long-tailed monkeys, of which there are three kinds: the Grivet, the Green Monkey, a native of the Cape de Verde Islands, and the Vervet.

These also have large cheek pouches, in which they keep a reserve stock of food, and it is this sort of monkey that we generally see seated on barrel-organs in the street, and compelled, poor

little animals! often to go on their hind paws only.

The hair of these monkeys has so many different



GREEN MONKEY.

colours, that they seem to vary according to the light. One of them has so many blue and yellow

hairs that it looks green, and so comes to be called the Green Monkey.

Their pouches really seem capable of containing any amount of food. One species is named Mona, the diminutive of which is Monikin, from which comes monkey.

They come not only from Abyssinia and some parts of Northern Africa, but from the banks of the river Senegal on the West. The name Mona was given them by the Moors. These little creatures greatly dislike the presence of man in their native woods, and as they glide about among the branches, they seem always on the look-out for intruders into their own domains.

A traveller may be unaware, perhaps, that hundreds of little heads are watching him from among the branches, until he feels a piece of stick fall on him. He looks up, perhaps, and sees nothing; and so he goes on, fancying that it had fallen accidentally, till another and another bit falls; and then he suddenly perceives hundreds of little angry faces looking down upon him, all showing their white teeth, and now beginning a simultaneous angry chattering. Then down come

showers of sticks, nuts, fruits, or anything else that the monkeys can lay their hands on; and by all sorts of noisy threats, the unfortunate man is made to feel that he is not wanted, and, in fact, that he is trespassing.

If he be armed he may fire and kill many of them; but the little monkeys stand their ground, as if firmly persuaded that they are defending their "hearths and homes," and only doing their duty.

Still, when taken prisoners, these fierce, brave little creatures may be tamed, especially if treated with kindness; and perhaps no kind of monkey is more frequently brought to England than the vervets and grivets. But many are the stories of their mischievous pranks; and Mr. Wood tells us of one of these that belonged to a lady, whose pet it was. This creature was much given to imitating the actions of its neighbours. It wanted always to do as others did, and, as may be imagined, it was continually up to such pranks in this way, that it was regarded as a great plague by the neighbours, and more especially by the servants. One day his mistress's maid was washing some lace for her, and he was most anxious to help. Being, how-



PELTING A TRAVELLER.

ever, sent, somewhat summarily, about his business, he went off, chattering and scolding, to see what he could find in the way of amusement.



VERVET WASHING LACE.

The windows of a neighbouring house were open; so he entered a bed-room, and speedily made himself acquainted with the contents of

two small drawers, in which were laces, ribbons, and handkerchiefs. The idea of washing was still in his head, and seeing a tub at hand, he just emptied the finery into it, poured in all the water that he could find, and, getting some soap, he set to work, and scrubbed away with great energy. The owner of the things returned just as he was spreading out all the spoilt and torn articles to dry ; and then, well knowing that she would be angry, he ran away back to his own home, and hid himself in the case of a kitchen clock, his usual place of concealment when he was in disgrace.

• Another time he saw the cook plucking partridges for dinner, and immediately went in search of an object on which he could practise the lesson that he had learnt. In the yard he found some pet bantams, and, after stealing what eggs he could, he seized one of the poor hens and carried her indoors, where he immediately began plucking her. The poor bird's screams soon brought the servants to the rescue ; but the bleeding bird had to be killed, and the monkey was thenceforward chained up, so much to his chagrin that he would not eat, and consequently very

soon died, no doubt to the great relief of all the neighbours.

And then there is another West African monkey, called the Colobus, or stunted, from its having scarcely any thumb. One kind is like a bear, and is called the Ursine Colobus; another has a long mane, and is called the Full-maned Colobus. These are all nearly black, with a large white tuft at the end of the tail. One kind is wholly black, and another is black on the back, with a sort of white mane on each side, a white band on the forehead, and white whiskers. This last, however, lives in Abyssinia, and feeds chiefly on insects. It is said to be very gentle, and is called the Guereza.

Between these different kinds, and some others too, and the parrots who are their neighbours, no doubt there are plenty of noisy frolics in those woods; for, as I have elsewhere said, there seems to be something in their respective natures which brings them into contact. Both are full of life, and both are full of mischief, too; and it really appears as if they were always playing off practical jokes on one another. Any one who has seen monkeys play off their tricks in a cage can

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imagine, a little, the games that go on in their native woods; how they chase each other from branch to branch, screaming and chattering with delight whenever they have succeeded in playing off a joke on a comrade, while that comrade takes the joke by no means good-temperedly, but in his turn screams and shrieks with anger. The noise must be heard to be understood at all. And much the same sort of game they carry on with the parrots, which know full well how to shriek defiantly at their pursuers, and which enter into the game with as much spirit as their attackers. Those splendid long tails are a tempting prize indeed, for at the end of the quill feathers there is some soft stuff, which to a monkey palate is absolutely delicious. So after the poor parrot, chasing it from bough to bough, goes the mischievous monkey; and when the bird has reached some mere twig, on which she can swing with great comfort, and shrieks back her angry defiance to the enemy, from whom she feels quite secure, down comes perhaps the long, slender arm of some other monkey from above, and the parrot's tail is gone before she is aware, making her perhaps regret that she had rashly

risked so much by remaining on that tree at all, and that she did not use her wings and laugh at him from a really safe distance.

How many sharp pecks the monkeys get in the course of these scampers, it would be hard to say; but at least they do not seem to risk much else, and nothing in comparison with what is ventured by the foolish birds, who could so easily fly away.

Meantime the monkeys themselves are the objects of attack of more formidable enemies; for they are the prey of leopards and snakes in Asia and Africa, and in America of many another fierce beast. But worst of all for them, the monkeys are the prey of man himself; for the natives of those lands which they inhabit are very fond of monkey flesh as food. When the poor animals are killed, they are just roasted whole, a stake being run right through the body. But it is seldom that a European can be induced to touch this kind of meat, for the dish has a strangely revolting appearance, and such as induces thoughts of cannibal practices.

Monkeys seem to have quick feelings, and strong likes and dislikes, which they generally

34 *The White-Nosed and Red Monkey.*

evinced at first sight ; but their tempers vary, as do those of other creatures. In some ways most little monkeys resemble mischievous children, and they certainly attempt things which no other animals do. For instance, some are quick at untying knots, or at locking and unlocking boxes or drawers ; others are so clever at picking pockets that dishonest persons might almost employ them for that purpose.

The White-Nosed^r Monkey, so-called from a white spot of hair on its nose, is quite small, and really graceful and elegant in the eyes of monkey lovers. It is always on the move, yet shy and coy, though apparently very pleased with the admiration of spectators. This, too, is a native of Guinea.

Then there is the Patas, or Red Monkey, whose fur is a kind of bright chestnut, shading into red ; this is a larger kind, and found in Senegal. It is fond of play, but often spiteful in its play, and will long continue to trample on a fallen foe. These fight from tree-tops, hurling all sorts of arboreal missiles at their foes.

The Guenons include nearly all the long-tailed monkeys that come to England. They are

all pretty much alike in certain traits of character—they cannot bear to be laughed at or mocked ; cruelty does not answer with them, but by kindness and gentleness they may be trained.

The Diana Monkey again is remarkable for its pointed beard and varied tints. This animal is very particular about its beard, which is white, and which it cannot bear to have soiled.

A bearded Diana seems an anomaly ; but there is a white crescent on the brow which doubtless suggested the resemblance to the silvery cross borne by the goddess in ancient mythology.

It is rather a good monkey to keep as a pet, being very clean, and easily tamed.

Mrs. Bowdich, in the “Magazine of Natural History,” describes one of these Diana Monkeys—a native of the Gold Coast. She says :—

“He had been purchased by the cook of the vessel in which I sailed from Africa, and was considered his exclusive property. I had embarked with more than a mere womanly aversion to monkeys—mine was absolute antipathy ; and though I often laughed at Jack’s freaks, still I kept out of his way, till a circumstance brought with it a closer acquaintance, and cured me of my

dislike. I was sitting alone on the deck, reading, when, in an instant, something jumped upon my shoulders, twisted its tail round my neck, and screamed close to my ears. My consciousness that it was 'Jack,' scarcely relieved me ; but there was no help. I dared not cry for assistance, because I was afraid of him, and I dared not beat him off for the same reason. I therefore became civil from necessity, and from that moment an alliance between Jack and me commenced. He gradually loosened his hold, looked into my face, examined my hand and rings with the most minute attention, and soon discovered the biscuits that lay at my side. When I became reconciled to his society, he became a constant source of amusement. Like all other nautical monkeys, he was fond of pulling off the men's caps as they slept, and throwing them into the sea ; of knocking over the parrots' cages, to drink the water as it ran over the deck ; of stealing the carpenter's tools ; in short, of teasing everything and everybody. Whenever the pigs were let out, to take a run on deck, he took his station behind a cask, whence he leaped on the back of one of them as it passed. The nails he stuck in the

pig's back, to keep himself on, produced a squealing; but Jack was never thrown. Confinement was the worst punishment he could receive, and



DIANA MONKEY.

when threatened with it, he would cling to me for protection. At night, when about to be sent to bed in an empty hen-coop, he generally hid him-

self under my shawl, and at last no one but I could put him to rest. He was particularly jealous of the other monkeys on board, and managed to put two of them out of the way. Of course he was scolded and flogged. But his spite against his own race was manifested at another time in a very original way. The men had been painting the ship's side with a streak of white, and being called to dinner, left their brushes and paint on deck. He called a little black monkey to him, who, like the others, immediately crouched to his superior. Jack seized him by the nape of the neck, took the brush, dripping with paint, and covered him with white from head to foot. Both the man at the helm and I burst into a laugh; upon which Jack dropped his victim, and scampered up the rigging. The unhappy little beast began licking himself; but I called the steward, who washed him so well with turpentine that all injury was prevented. Jack was peeping through the bars of the maintop, apparently enjoying the confusion. At last hunger brought him down. He dropped from some height upon my knees, and I could not deliver him up to punishment."

And the last that I have to mention are the Mangabeys, or Tailed Monkeys of Western Africa, specimens of which we sometimes see here.



SOOTY MANGABEY.

They have white eyelids. Yet one kind is named the Sooty, or Negro Monkey.

When the Mangabeys walk, they turn their

tails over their backs. Mr. Wood says that these monkeys are the acrobats of the tribe, and that they also have even wit enough to see that their tricks gain them presents.

They are ridiculously fond of jewellery, and will seize a ring at the risk of the owner's fingers.

All these tailed monkeys belong to the *Cerco-pithec*i.

But in Western Africa, though not only there, we find two or three funny little four-handed creatures, allied to, but not identical with the monkey tribe. One is called the *Patto*, a creature akin to the *Lemurs* of Madagascar, and the *Loris* of India, but not precisely like either. Another is the *Galego*, a little grey creature, smaller than a *Marmoset*, and a minute species of this same animal.





CHAPTER IV.

THE PARROTS OF AFRICA.

HAVING spent a good deal of time over the climbing animals of Africa, let us now turn our attention to some of its climbing birds, which, if you look in any book of natural history, you will find under the name of Scansores, or Climbers.

The variety seems not so great among the parrot kind as among the monkey tribes. Still Africa has several sorts, and in the unknown interior it may have many more. The grey or ash-coloured one is its chief representative, and, as I have said, this may be regarded intellectually as the head of the order. The Timneh parrot, which is dark grey, is one of these. But then we have, amongst others, the Senegal parrot, which

has a green back, grey wings, warm-coloured head, and a yellow breast ; and another, which is grey, green, and pink. Then Jardine's parrot has green and yellow splotches, and the little love-bird parraquets have green and vermilion faces.

The character of the feet decides a bird's order ; and parrots are therefore placed in the order in which the toes are arranged two in front and two behind, the outer toe being turned in such a way that it is opposable to the others, and acts like a thumb. This gives all these birds the power of grasping and of climbing ; and, moreover, in parrots there is in the great toe a strong cross-bone, and all the toes are furnished with strong, curved claws.

With the exception of the feet, however, parrots differ so much from the other climbing birds, that they really form a group of themselves ; and the brain being much larger than in any other bird, many naturalists incline to place them before even the king of birds, and make them head the feathered tribes, as the monkey does the mammals.

They differ in the structure of the beak, in the case that encloses its base, in their thick and

fleshy tongue, as well as in their general form, from other climbing birds, and even the foot is covered with small tubercle-like scales instead of plates, as in woodcocks, etc.

The most remarkable peculiarity of the parrot is its power of imitating human speech. Its articulation is sometimes so distinct, that the sounds which it utters are scarcely distinguishable from those of a human voice. The form of the tongue has much to do with this.

And now let us just mark their other general peculiarities: a long tail; wings, usually short; very small power of flight; beautiful plumage; a curved bill, the upper mandible of which, being peculiarly movable, the bird can assist itself with it in climbing. Then the pupils of the eyes have a remarkable power of dilating and contracting at will, and, like the eagle, the parrot can bear great light.

The food of the whole family consists chiefly of fruits, the fruits of the lands in which they live—namely, the banana, the palm, the coffee-tree, and the lemon. They are also very fond of almonds, and, as we all know, in captivity they appreciate seed of various kinds and sopped bread. They drink very little.

Parrots are monogamous, that is, one pair keep together; but they also love to live in flocks, sleeping at nights in hollow trees, going to rest at sunset, and awaking at sunrise.

They are very fond of getting into water, and in their wild state will bathe themselves several times a day.

Parrots are very long-lived, some having, it is said, attained the age of ninety years; but parraquets live only to about five-and-twenty.

The young have no feathers of any kind when they emerge from the shell, and their heads are so large that for some time they have no strength to move them. They stay with their parents till after their first moulting, and then pair. The eggs are generally quite white.

But now, to return to the grey or ash-coloured African parrot, perhaps the easiest to tame, as well as the quickest to learn, of any of the tribe. I think we may reckon it the chief, therefore, of its tribe, and say that as Africa has the king of monkeys, so it has also the head of the parrots.

When we hear of a very clever parrot, it generally turns out to be a grey one, though not always.

Mr. Jesse tells one of the most wonderful

stories about a parrot that was sometimes taken on a visit to Hampton Court, which was most probably a grey one ; but as he does not mention its colour we cannot be certain. He got the story from a friend, who thus writes :—

“ As 'you wished me to write down whatever I could recollect about my sister's wonderful parrot, I proceed to do so, only premising that I will tell you nothing but what I can vouch for having myself heard. Her laugh is quite extraordinary, and it is impossible to help joining in it oneself, more especially when in the midst of it she cries out, 'Don't make me laugh so ; I shall die, I shall die ;' and then continues laughing more violently than before. Her crying and sobbing are curious ; and if you say, 'Poor Poll ! what is the matter ?' She says, 'So bad ! so bad ! got such a cold !' and after crying for some time will gradually cease, and making a noise like drawing a long breath, say, 'Better now,' and begin to laugh.

“ The first time I ever heard her speak was one day when I was talking to the maid at the bottom of the stairs, and heard what I then considered to be a child call out, 'Payne !' (the

maid's name), 'I am not well ; I'm not well ;' and on my saying, 'What's the matter with that child?' she replied, 'It's only the parrot ; and she always does so when I leave her alone, to make me come back ;' and so it proved ; for on her going into the room the parrot stopped, and then began laughing, quite in a jeering way.

"It is singular enough, that whenever she is affronted in any way, she begins to cry ; and when pleased, to laugh. If any one happens to cough or sneeze, she says, 'What a bad cold !' One day, when the children were playing with her, the maid came into the room, and on their repeating to her several things which the parrot had said, Poll looked up, and said, quite plainly, 'No, I didn't.' Sometimes when she is inclined to be mischievous, the maid threatens to beat her, and she says, 'No, you won't.' She calls the cat very plainly, saying, 'Puss, puss !' and then answers, '*Mew* ;' but the most amusing part is, that whenever I want to make her call it, and for that purpose say, 'Puss! puss !' myself, she invariably answers, '*Mew*,' till I begin mewing, and then she begins calling puss as quick as possible. She

imitates every kind of noise, and barks so naturally, that I have known her set all the dogs on the parade at Hampton Court barking; and the consternation I have seen her cause in a party of cocks and hens, by her crowing and clucking, has been the most ludicrous thing possible. She sings just like a child, and I have more than once thought it was a human being; and it was ridiculous to hear her make what one should call a false note, and then say, 'Oh, la!' and burst out laughing at herself, beginning again in quite another key. She is very fond of singing 'Buy a broom,' which she says quite plainly; but in the same spirit as in calling the cat, if we say, with a view to make her repeat it, 'Buy a broom,' she always says, 'Buy a *brush*,' and then laughs, as a child might do when mischievous. She often performs a kind of exercise, which I do not know how to describe, except by saying that it is like the lance-exercise. She puts her claw behind her, first on one side and then on the other, then in front, and round her head, and whilst doing so, keeps saying, 'Come on! come on!' and, when finished, says, 'Bravo, beautiful!' and then draws herself up.

“ Before I was as well acquainted with her as I am now, she would stare in my face, and then say, ‘ How d’ye do, ma’am ? ’ This she invariably does to strangers. One day I went into the room where she was, and, to try her, said, ‘ Poll, where is Payne gone ? ’ and to my astonishment and almost dismay, she said, ‘ Down stairs.’ ”

There was a grey parrot once, which lived in the family of a Dutch gentleman thirty-two years, having before lived forty-one with his uncle. It was said that at the age of sixty it had begun to lose its memory, and to confuse all its little speeches in a hopeless sort of way. After sixty-five it did not moult, and its tail turned yellow.

Another writer tells a story of a grey parrot that lived at Kensington when he was a boy. It belonged to an inn-keeper, and was usually hung out of an upper window :—“ A capital talker she was, and from morning to night kept the thoroughfare alive with her chattering. One day as I was returning from school, and paused as usual to hear what the parrot had got to say, I found her in a state of high hilarity, and screaming out at the top of her voice, ‘ Cod, oh ! cod, oh ! plaice and eels alive, oh ! ’ Casting about to discover

whom the bird was calling after, I could see nothing—nothing but a highly respectable old gentleman, with brown gaiters and an umbrella, leaning on the latter, and laughing till his jolly face grew purple. ‘Cod, oh! live eels!’ the bird continued to bawl, and it being evident to me that the old gentleman was in the secret, I took the liberty of inquiring of him what the bird meant. ‘What does she mean, boy? Why, she means me,’ replied the good-natured old fellow. ‘She has the memory of a tax-gatherer—has that bird! She remembers me for all my fine coat. It’s nearly twenty years ago since I drove a fish-cart, every day, through this parish, and called out my ware; but she don’t forget. I mustn’t come through Kensington if I wish to forget I was once a poor fishmonger.’ ”

An old German story tells of a grey parrot that brought a murder to light, and a murderer to the gallows :—

Many years ago there resided in the worst part of the town of Nuremberg, a shoemaker, named Carl Schnopp, who had for a lodger an eccentric old gentleman—Herr Wonter.

It was a wretched neighbourhood, that in which

the shoemaker lived, and the room occupied by his lodger was dingy and most meanly furnished ; it, however, suited Herr Wonter, for he was a miser ; the sole object of his life being to pass for a miserably poor wretch. But the shoemaker found out the secret, or rather his wife did. One evening she hurried breathless to Carl's workshop to tell him that the two stone jars, which appeared to contain the meal with which Herr Wonter made his porridge, were, in truth, full of gold pieces, with just a sprinkling of meal on the top. The result was that Carl Schnopp and his wife resolved to rob and murder Herr Wonter, who, so far from being a beggar, could have weighed his meal jars against the money bags of any burgo-master in the city, and who was an outcast by choice.

Herr Wonter kept a parrot, a wonderfully clever bird ; so clever indeed, that on Carl Schnopp being brought to trial, there were not wanting witnesses to swear they had frequently heard both men and women talking and singing in his room. They were mistaken ; nobody either talked or sang in Herr Wonter's room, but himself and the parrot.

The instrument with which the guilty shoe-

maker resolved to slay his lodger, was the formidable flat-faced hammer with which he beat out his sole-leather. So he and his wife crept upstairs so stealthily, and entered the miser's room with their naked feet in so cat-like a manner, that they were fairly at the bedside before even the parrot awoke. "Who are you? Who are you?" screamed the bird, but before the affrighted Herr Wonter could ask the same question, or even grasp the carbine that always hung at his head, the hammer fell, as did Herr Wonter, crying, "Murder, murder." It is unlikely that the grey parrot had ever heard that terrible word before, much less practised it; it was uttered, however, in a tone so shrill, so agonized, that the bird caught it up instantly, and cried "murder" too.

"Wring that villain's neck," said Schnopp to his wife, "while I carry the money into the cellar—he will bring the whole town about our ears, else."

So while Carl was gone down-stairs, the woman opened the cage-door, and endeavoured to seize the parrot. He, however, snapped at her hand, fierce as a mastiff, and so tore it that it was speedily as red as his master's pillow. When Carl came up-

stairs again, he found his wife still tussling with the parrot, so said he, "Get out of the way, and I'll flatten him like shoe-leather in a twinkling." But the brave parrot still snapped, and tore, and screamed "murder." Handfuls of his beautiful plumage were torn out, but they could not still his voice, nor abate his courage. At last, the poor bird darted through the door of his cage, and swept through the room with his heavy wings, incessantly uttering the dreadful word ; while the affrighted murderers—she with the iron candle-stick (the candle had been buffeted out), and he with the terrible flat-faced hammer—hurrying after and chasing the poor bird, with no better light than the moon gave through the green curtain at the window. Through the window presently the heavy hammer went crashing, and out at the hole darted the parrot, through the quiet streets, over the house-tops, startling the good people of Nuremberg in their beds with its appalling cry.

Daybreak found the parrot perched on the cross in the market-place, ragged, bleeding, and forlorn. For a while it would sit in silence, and then rising heavily, would make the circuit of the

market-cross, shrieking the last words it had heard its master utter. Everybody noticed the bird : some shook their heads and looked grave, others laughed and treated it as a joke. At last, an old woman who sold grapes, and who lived opposite, recognized the bird as belonging to Herr Wonter. This led to an inquiry. Carl and his wife affirmed that Herr Wonter had gone out late the preceding night, and had not yet returned. Madame Schnopp's lacerated hands, however, was a difficulty that could not be got over, especially as medical evidence showed that they had been torn by the beak of a bird. Besides this, when the man and wife were confronted with the ragged parrot, it exhibited such unmistakeable tokens of rage, and fluttered its wings, and kept crying, "Murder! murder!" so fiercely, that presently the woman fell on her knees and confessed the crime; where the money was hid; and that the body of Herr Wonter was in the wash-house chimney.

Another grey parrot had a strong objection to strangers, and seemed to try every way in which she could show her aversion and contempt.

When her mistress came down-stairs in the morning, this bird would say, "Mother, how d'ye do? Good morning." Then she would watch every movement, and as soon as the steam proceeded from the kettle's spout, would call out, "The kettle boils! the kettle boils! Make the tea!" When any one cut bread, she would say, quietly, "Polly likes a bit?" "What does Polly like?" some one would ask; and she would answer, "Toast—just one little bit;" but on getting it, she would add, "Polly likes *two* bits."

Then when the milk was taken in, she would call, "Puss! puss!" it being usual to give the cat some; but if her own share was not given her, she would call, "Come, come, come," till she got it. Also, if the bell rang, and was not attended to, she would call her mistress, either by name, or as "mother," till the door was answered.

In winter her cage was hung in the kitchen window; but in summer, near a window frequently passed by Irish labourers seeking work. To any one of them she would call out, "Hooroo, Pat! are ye all right?" and then generally add, "Does your mother like fish?"

Whenever that bird was offended, she used to say, "I'll kick up a row!" and keep her word.

She could change her voice so as to imitate a child or an old man, and sang several tunes. She did not like a green parrot which lived in the same house, and used to say to it, "Hold your noise; get out;" and behave altogether so unkindly that the poor green bird had to be given away.

This narrative, like some others, seems to be too wonderful for belief; but it is given on good authority.

There is a story of another, however, which seems to outdo it—namely, of a bird that could sing fifty tunes, and would sing any one that was asked for.

There is a story of a green parrot which must have been as clever as most grey ones :—

"I once had a large green parrot that spoke with the common inflexions of the human voice; and often seemed to answer questions as well as put them. When any person, especially a stranger, entered the room where she was, she asked, 'Who are you? who are you?' And being answered, the next question was, 'What do you want?'

And this being responded to, the reply generally was some saucy retort.

"One day I came into the room, and taking no notice of her, the usual question came, 'Who are you?' For a joke, I answered, 'Tom Thumb.' 'O—h!' cried Poll, in quite a horrified tone, as though shocked at having detected me in such a falsehood.

"If her cage was placed on the balcony, her cry of 'Cab! cab wanted!' soon brought those vehicles from every direction, the drivers looking about with surprise for the person who had called them.

"We engaged a cook who was positively ugly. The first moment she made her appearance, Polly cried out, in a laughing tone, 'Pretty cook! oh, pretty cook!' ending with a peal of laughter, the woman's injured air adding to the oddity of the scene.

"If the parrot felt herself neglected, she would cry out, in a sorrowful tone, 'Ah, Polly! you dear bird! you poor, pretty bird! Kiss the poor bird!' Then, changing her tone, she would cry, 'Oh! you naughty bird! you bad bird! this bad bird wants sugar. Kiss Polly—pretty Polly Hopkins!'

— “She could imitate every sound of the children’s voices exactly—every laugh and every cry ; and having gone over them all, she would end with, ‘Go to bed, you noisy children ! go to bed !’

“One morning the gardener was passing the dining-room window, which was open, when he heard, ‘Come back ! come back ! mistress wants you !’ Polly’s cage was hidden by a curtain. He turned back, and stood at the hall door for some time. At last he knocked, and sent word he was waiting ; when, to his great surprise, he was told that ‘nobody had called him.’

“One day I was called down to a visitor, who seemed in a perplexed state of mind. The parrot had been placed on a garden seat just outside the window. The bird could see that some one was in the room. Presently, ‘How do you do ?’ was heard. ‘Very well, thank you,’ said the lady, much perplexed to understand where the voice came from. Presently the voice was again heard. ‘What do you want ?’ to which she answered by giving the lady’s name. She was about to ring the bell when I entered the room ; and on hearing of her wonder and alarm, I threw aside the cur-

tain and showed her Polly, who evidently enjoyed the joke.

“The eldest boy in the family and Polly were not on the best terms. Every morning, soon as breakfast was over, she began to call out, ‘It is time for school. Do you hear, Jemmy?—it is time for school!’ In this she would persist, till some one joined in the counsel, and the boy was sent off to his lessons.”

“A gentleman who owned a parrot possessed of much power of thought, met with some cockles at his fishmonger’s one day, and being fond of these things when pickled, he sent them in, with a message to his cook to be put forward at once. She cooked them accordingly, and put them into a jar, which she left uncovered till the fish should cool. The parrot’s cage was then standing near, having been brought down to be cleaned; and when the cook left the kitchen, to see about other work, Polly came out, and soon found her way to the jar, from which she helped herself liberally, scattering remnants on the floor and on the bottom of her cage.

“Presently the cook returned, and in an instant perceived what had been going on. Enraged at

Polly's audacity, she exclaimed, 'What! you've been at the cockles, have you?' and flung over her some of the boiling water she was carrying in her hand. It inflicted a terrible punishment on poor Polly, for in an hour or two most of the feathers of her head dropped off; and in this stripped and scalded condition she sat, for many days after, wretched and disconsolate. Her ordinary gaiety and talk ceased, and she sat murmuring only low complainings of her unhappiness.

"At last, when the worst was over, and down began to appear on the naked head, a visitor came into the drawing-room, who, on removing his hat, showed a head perfectly bald. In an instant Polly sprang into her ring, exclaiming, as she swung to and fro, 'So, you've been at the cockles, have you?'

"The sight of a fellow-sufferer seemed to restore her spirits, and she was not long in recovering her usual cheerfulness."

Le Vaillant gives the following account of another African parrot, the Damask Parrot:—

"Every day, at the same hour, these parrots fly to the water to bathe themselves—in which operation they take great delight: all the flocks

of the whole neighbourhood assemble towards evening, with much noise and animation, and this is the signal for their visit to the water, which is often at a great distance, since no other than the purest water will please them. They are then seen huddling or rolling over each other, pell-mell, on the banks of the water, frolicking together, dipping their heads and wings into the water, in such a manner as to scatter it all over their plumage, and exhibiting a most entertaining spectacle to the observer. This ceremony being over, they revisit the trees on which they previously assembled, where they sit in order to adjust and plume their feathers ; and this being finished, they fly off in pairs, each pair seeking its particular retreat in the woods, where they wait till the morning."

Parrots are most sociable birds—among the order of "Climbers" there are none so fond of society.

Mr. Lee says :—

" I do not know anything more striking to the traveller in tropical countries than the abundance of those living creatures which in England we behold only as varieties. Never shall I forget the



PARROTS BATHING.

sensations with which I first beheld hundreds of parrots perching on the tops of trees, while monkeys were climbing after them. The chattering and screeching was tremendous. Some of them pursued me even on my return to England, for the vessel which brought me brought also three hundred of these birds, purchased by the sailors at a trifling cost.

“The steward of the ship had several, one of which, remarkable for its beauty, was kept in a wire cage, being intended for a present. It was an apt scholar, acquiring phrases and tunes, and imitating voices.

“A little cousin of mine had a native servant, who one day stole some candles. This created a disturbance when discovered, and the child rushed to me, exclaiming, ‘Hanboo’s a tief—a tief! he steal a candles, and he—he—he eat them!’

“In the evening, when all was quiet, I heard the parrot repeating, in low tones, ‘Hanboo’s a tief—Hanboo’s a tief!’ then it muttered something about candles, and at last the *finale* was reached, ‘and he—he—he eat them!’

“For some days after nobody went near the

cage without hearing, in various tones, 'Hanboo's a tief!'"

"I knew," says Mr. Lee, "an African parrot named Jacko, belonging to a friend of mine, and during a visit of a day or two I witnessed his powers. He used to come upon the dinner-table with the dessert, when he would play off various tricks. At last a dish was emptied, into which he laid himself, turning his head on one side, exclaiming, 'Jacko's dead!' He was then covered up, and never stirred till his mistress called him to life again.

"He was very destructive, for which reason he was generally confined to his cage. A strange servant, however, arrived during my visit, and as she had received no caution, she allowed him to come out while she was dusting the drawing-room. But nothing would persuade him to go back into his cage, so she closed the door and left him. His mistress, soon after, entering the room, found him on the hearth-rug, surrounded by the fragments of a valuable book of engravings, and tugging with all his strength to tear to pieces the cover. He was scolded, beaten, and put back into his cage, where he remained all the rest of the

day, neither eating nor speaking. When evening came, he cried, as usual, 'Jacko wants to go to bed.' The usual cover was thrown over him, but instead of going to sleep, we heard him muttering to himself the scolding he had received, beginning with, 'Naughty Jacko! Wicked bird! How dare you do such mischief? Ah! I'll punish you!' etc., etc."

A young friend of Mr. Lee's had a favourite parrot, who became quite miserable from jealousy of a canary which was entrusted to its mistress. The caresses given to the little bird made the parrot both sulkily silent, and even vicious. She refused her food, turned her back upon her mistress, and even tried to bite her. One sunny morning the canary broke forth into one of its sweetest songs. The parrot listened attentively, till the canary ceased; and then, in scornful tones, exclaimed, "Pretty well! pretty well!" closing with a contemptuous "Ha! ha!"

The brother of this young lady had a parrot of the same jealous disposition. He detested a small bird of whom his master was very fond. The two birds slept in an ante-room, near to the bed-chamber; and one night the gentleman was

awakened by a great screaming and scuffling near at hand. He struck a light, and rushed into the ante-room, but it was too late : the parrot had found means to open the door of his cage, and at once flying to the other, had forced his claws between the bars, had seized the little bird, and was tearing it to pieces.

In one part of Africa traversed by Livingstone, parrots with scarlet tails seem to be common, for he several times mentions them in connection with a barbarous custom. The Manyuema inhabit that part of the continent ; and he asserts that they are the most bloody, callous savages that he ever knew. "One," he says, "puts a scarlet feather from a parrot's tail on the ground, and challenges those near to stick it in the hair ; he who does so must kill a man or woman. In other words, they make a game of taking human life.

"Some again, kill people that they may get permission to wear the red tail-feathers in their hair.

"They have a notion that the feeding on parrots' flesh causes children to walk in the waddling manner, in which those birds do, and therefore these birds are not commonly eaten. The smell of putrid elephants' flesh is fatal to parrots."



CHAPTER V.

THE BARBARY APE AND BABOONS.

IN captivity the parrot seems to be a much more hardy creature than the monkey; and yet, as we get out of the hotter parts of Africa, the parrots disappear, while monkeys are still found. Apparently, in Egypt, they used to be numerous, and mummies were made of them as well as of human beings. In the Barbary States, the Magot, or Barbary Ape, is still found, though probably not in the numbers in which it once lived, when some of the cities were full of them, and they went in and out of the houses just as they pleased, and in certain places even received divine honours. These apes are peculiar to the Barbary States, though some have been carried across to the Rock of Gibraltar, on which

they have become naturalized. This is the only place in Europe inhabited by monkeys; and even there they manage to keep nearly out of sight, by living in the most inaccessible parts of the Rock; so that their habits can only be watched through a good telescope. And yet they contrive to steal supplies of food, with which they retire, and are seen to go about in large bands, and may be often observed turning over the pieces of loose rock in search of beetles, or any similar creatures, of which they are very fond. Scorpions, also, they delight in hunting, and they kill them by twitching off the poisoned joints of the tail, after which they composedly devour them. Their chief enemies are of the feline species—wild cats, or larger beasts. But it is at night that the real danger exists from these. In the day-time they make provision against attack by setting a sentry to watch; and upon the first yell of alarm the mothers snatch up their little ones and make off, while the strong, grown males make ready for battle. The Magot, like many other monkeys, is gentle when young, and can learn many tricks; but it becomes sulky and fierce as it grows older.

It is about the size of a bull-dog, and grey in

colour. When not excited, it continually makes a little gentle chattering; but when irritated it yells and screams frightfully.

The following is an amusing story of a Barbary ape:—

Father Casaubon, a famous preacher, brought up the animal in question; which, having become attached to him, wished to follow him wherever he went.

One day, when Casaubon was going to church, the ape, not being made secure, followed its master to the place of worship, and, being a good climber, silently mounted the sounding-board, and there lay quiet and concealed until the sermon was in course of delivery. It then advanced to the edge of its perch to see what was going on beneath it, and to watch the actions of the orator. These were no sooner observed by the able mimic, than it began to perform also; and its imitation of the preacher's gestures were so perfectly grotesque, that the whole congregation was put into a state of great risibility, such as could not be suppressed. The good father was alike shocked and indignant at the ill-timed levity of his audience, and began to administer some severe

reproofs. But seeing all his efforts failing, he launched forth into violent action, accompanied by loud vociferations. His frequent gestures the ape did not fail to take up immediately, with no less animation than that which inspirited his master. And at this apparent competition of the two individuals the people burst into roars of laughter; and when the animal was pointed out to the pastor, though highly exasperated, it is said that he could hardly command his own countenance while he gave directions to have the ape removed.

Now we pass down the Eastern side of the Continent, and come to the

CYNOCEPHALI

BABOONS, OR DOG-HEADED MONKEYS.

The resemblance to the dog in the heads of these animals is very marked. The nostrils are at the end of the snout, instead of flat on the face, as in other monkeys; and the muzzle is cut off in a rounded and abrupt manner at the end.

The baboon is disgusting in its habits, morose in temper, and fierce in character. It is in fact

one of the most brutal of beasts. One species, much resembling a monkey called the Macaque, inhabits Abyssinia, and is known as the Gelada. It is brown, and has, when full grown, a heavy mane. These Gelada, now and then, when they want to look at any object, stand erect; but otherwise their attitudes are more those of four-footed animals when walking, and of monkeys in general, and do not resemble those of the larger apes.

They walk with a peculiarly jaunty and impertinent air, and if startled or frightened, gallop. But they climb trees or rocks with great expertness, and, keeping together in large bands, really hold possession of the forests, and are invincible to any being less quick-witted than man.

The Gelada does not attack a foe, however, unless forced to do so in self-defence; but when he does, he is a terrible creature to encounter; so strong are his limbs and so long and sharp his teeth.

An enraged Gelada seizes his opponent by the throat, makes his teeth meet in it, and while still holding him, pushes his victim from him, and thus

makes such a wound that often it is instantly fatal.

Many an inexperienced hound has thus met his death ; for no sooner does the baboon find that he has only one pursuer, than he turns, and in a few seconds has put an end to his foe.

CHACMA.

The Chacma, or Ursine (Bear-like) baboon, is one famous for such feats. This kind is found in South Africa ; and the name, Chacma, is just a contraction of the Hottentot word Tchakamma. The Zulus, however, call it Infena.

It is about the size of a large mastiff, but can easily manage any two dogs. Yet, notwithstanding this, the South African hounds will hunt this creature with such avidity that their owners have to restrain them from the chase. For they know well that this baboon kills more of their dogs than the leopard, or even the lion himself.

The Chacma is the terror of men as well as of dogs ; not as an assailant, but as a thief—a regular burglar, in fact—or, at best, a plunderer of fields and gardens. It lives in troops too, and is there-

fore quite a formidable nuisance. A band of them will openly rob if they feel strong enough to gain their object; but if they have reason to know that dogs are near to give the alarm, and men with guns to defend the property, then they lay their plans with craft and wonderful cleverness. Two or three experienced old fellows are chosen as leaders, and these contrive very noiselessly to pass the watch-dogs, or climb the fence, their companions being ranged in a long line on the other side, and this line ending in a place quite out of danger. Then the leaders bite the stalks, pluck the fruit, or seize on whatever the booty may be, handing it, little by little, to the nearest comrade, who silently hands it to the next; and so the whole is passed along the line until they have got enough for the common stock, and each one also a portion for himself secured in his pouches; and then, silently as they came, they all retire.

Young Chacmas are fairly docile, and may be trained to be of service to their masters by discovering and digging for the various roots and bulbs on which they feed themselves. They are also extremely keen in discovering where water is to be found. When a party are travelling in a

sultry climate, and all the supply of water brought with them is gone, then it is a fortunate thing indeed if any one happens to have brought a Chacma with him; such a strong instinct does he seem to have for discovering the hidden springs.

In such a case the poor animal is kept without water for a day, and fed with salt provisions till he grows furiously thirsty. Then a long rope is fastened to his collar, and he is allowed to become the leader of the party.

He starts forward, stops soon, and standing erect, sniffs the air; then having particularly noticed the direction of the wind, on he goes again. Soon, perhaps, he sees a blade of grass, which he plucks up and smells—if not satisfied, he starts again, and so goes on until he leads the party to a place where water may be had, and thus saves them all.

The following narrative is from Captain Drayson's "Shooting Scenes among the Kaffirs":—

"During the shooting-trip with the Boers, I awoke before daylight, and as I felt very cold, and not inclined to sleep, I got up, and taking my gun, walked to a little ravine, out of which a clear, murmuring stream flashed in the moonlight,

and ran close past our out-span. A little distance up this kloof the fog was dense and thick ; the blue and pink streaks of the morning light were beginning to illuminate the peaks of the Draakensberg, but all immediately around us still acknowledged the supremacy of the pale moonlight. I wanted to see the sun rise in this lovely region, and watch the changing effects which its arrival would produce on the mountains and plains around.

“Suddenly I heard a hoarse cough, and on turning, saw distinctly, in the fog, a queer little old man, standing near, and looking at me. I instinctively cocked my gun, as the idea of bushmen and poisoned arrows flashed across my mind. The old man instantly dropped on his hands, giving another hoarse cough, that evidently told a tale of consumptive lungs ; he snatched up something beside him, which seemed to leap on his shoulders, and then he scampered off up the ravine on all fours. Before half this performance was completed, I had discovered my mistake : the little old man turned into an ursine baboon, with an infant ditto, who had come down the kloof to drink. The ‘old man’s cough’ was answered by

a dozen others, at present hidden in the fogs;
soon, however,—

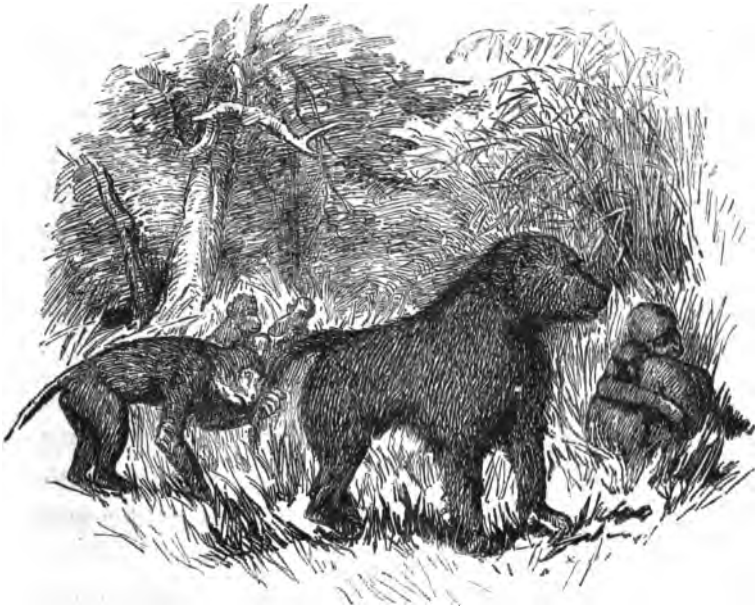
‘Up rose the sun, the mists were curl’d
Back from the solitary world
Which lay around,’

and I obtained a view of mountains, gilded by the morning sun.

“A large party of the old gentleman’s family were sitting up the ravine, and were evidently holding a debate as to the cause of my intrusion. I watched them through my glass, and was much amused at their grotesque, and almost human movements. Some of the old ladies had their olive-branches on their laps, and appeared to be ‘doing their hair,’ while a patriarchal old fellow paced backwards and forwards with a fussy sort of look; he was evidently on sentry, and seemed to think himself of no small importance.

“This estimate of his dignity did not appear to be universally acknowledged, as two or three young baboons sat close behind him watching his proceedings; sometimes with the most grotesque movements and expressions they would stand directly in his path, and hobble away only at the

last moment. One daring youngster followed closely on the heels of the patriarch during the whole length of his beat, and gave a sharp tug at his tail as he was about to return. The old fellow



AN IMPUDENT YOUNG BABOON.

seemed to treat it with the greatest indifference, scarcely turning round at the insult. Master Impudence was about repeating the performance, when the pater, showing that he was not such a

fool as he looked, suddenly sprang round, and catching the young one before he could escape, gave him two or three such cuffs that I could hear the screams that resulted therefrom. The venerable gentleman then chucked the delinquent over his shoulder, and continued his promenade with the greatest coolness. This old baboon was evidently acquainted with the details of Solomon's proverb. A crowd gathered round the naughty child, who, child-like, seeing commiseration, shrieked all the louder. I even fancied I could see the angry glances of the mamma as she took her dear little pet in her arms and removed it from a repetition of such brutal treatment."

Captain Drayson knew one of these animals that seemed to take great delight in frightening the Kaffir women, and would rush at them with horrid grimaces, or seize them by the ankles and make as if he meant really to eat them up.

And he tells many amusing tales of this same creature, which was, by the bye, a captive Chacma. He was a very imitative animal, and withal so long-sighted that he would be copying his master's gestures and actions at such a distance that he himself could only be seen by the aid of a tele-

scope. But he was extremely mischievous—so mischievous, in fact, that he was at last always kept chained to a pole. Before this measure was taken, he had eaten a box of wafers, drunk a bottle of ink, and examined the construction of a watch.

He was named Jacob, and his master found him a great amusement in his leisure hours.

The creature was very fond of sweets ; and, to test his ingenuity, a jar was sometimes put before him which had some jam left at the bottom of it ; but so narrow a neck that he could not get his hand into it. If a stick were at hand he would scoop out the contents with that ; but if not, he would whirl the jar round his head and then fling it down with great violence, in order to smash it. He did not always succeed, but on one occasion when he did, he hastily put as many of the smaller pieces as possible into his pouches, and then snatching up the largest morsel, retreated hastily to the top of his pole to enjoy his feast, evidently fearing that the spectators were going to cheat him of it somehow after all.

He made himself very sticky on such occasions, and was afterwards busy sometimes for hours in licking himself clean.

Like all baboons, he was greatly afraid of snakes, and, when hunting for roots, would always carefully peep under the foliage to see if one were there. For their own amusement people would sometimes frighten him with a dead one. His way then was to wrap himself in his blanket, and turn an old box over him. But there was a small hole in this box; his tormentor would quickly push the snake's tail through this, on which he would bounce up, throw over the box, and spring away. His tormentor would dodge him then, get him into a corner, and present the snake again. When it came to that, Jacob always seized the snake by the tail, and flung it to a distance; after which he would go and try to make it up with those who had teased him so cruelly.

Sometimes, however, the dead snake was tied on to the chain by which Jacob was fastened, and allowed to slide down to him. After some jumps and starts, he would then quietly lie down, as if resigning himself to his fate.

But this baboon was young and light-hearted; he had not yet become, as these creatures nearly all do when fully grown up, morose and sullen,

or revengeful. Almost as soon, therefore, as the obnoxious reptile was removed, Jacob would recover his spirits, and begin to play all sorts of jokes on his persecutors.

These Chacmas are supposed to live to about forty years of age; and they feed chiefly on the root of a plant called Babiana—a plant that existed in a soil where, in the long, dry season, all other plants die. Some of them carefully peel off the outer skin of these roots, and others, less particular, eat them as they are.

Some of them are very clever in accomplishing their own ends, and seem to exert their wits in planning and scheming. One, for instance, while he obtained money for his master by the tricks with which he amused people, entirely provided himself with food in the same way. For instance, on one occasion he pretended to be seized with a dreadful fit close to a date-seller's basket; he rolled on the ground, contorted himself in the strangest way, keeping his eyes fixed on the man as he wriggled himself closer and closer to his basket, which, when he had reached, he emptied of its contents by means of his hind paws.

It is said that his master had taught him to

watch the pot in which his dinner was making ready, and one day had left a fowl boiling in it. Very soon he felt a very strong desire to know what was in this pot, and lifting the lid, peeped in.

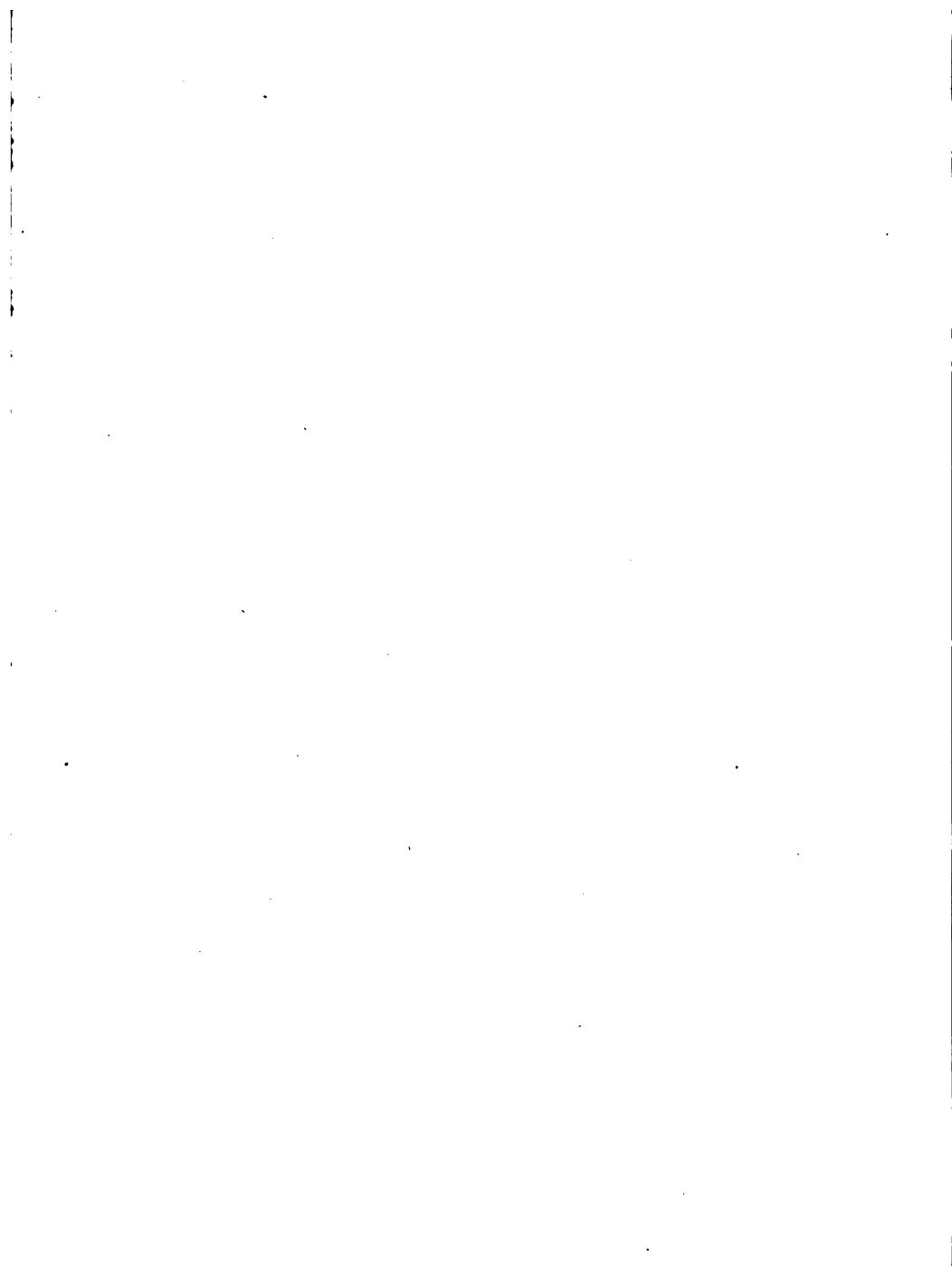
The fowl smelt so good that he then could not help taking a little bit, putting the fowl back again after doing so. Over and over again this was repeated until the bird was picked clean.

He did not think of the consequences till it was all gone, poor fellow, and then he suddenly began to shake, and his teeth to chatter, well knowing what would be the consequence of his theft.

But a sudden thought struck him, and instantly rolling himself over in the dust, until he became a sort of dust-colour, he stretched himself out, stiff and stark, on the ground. Then very soon, attracted by the smell of cooking, many kites came down, thinking, no doubt, to make a meal of him. But in an instant the baboon was on its feet, and had seized one of the kites. The cover was taken off the pot, and the poor bird thrust into the boiling water, despite of beak and claws. Then the lid was put on again, and the baboon took his old place of guard again ; and when the master came back there was a boiled bird in the pot.



THE BABOON AND THE KITE.



Baboons which live in troops are very careful about the placing of sentries to keep guard over the company ; and they have a regular system of leadership, too, and of subordinate officers also.

The chiefs are known by their thick grey hair, and their commands are given in short, sharp barks, long howls, or sudden screams, all which sounds are perfectly well understood by their inferiors. But the sentry duties being somewhat tedious, are divided among the company. They are more afraid of the leopard than of any other foe ; but it is chiefly the young ones that he attacks. It is said that a servant once saved his master from the attack of a troop of baboons, by going behind a tree and imitating the low growl of one of these much-feared animals.

Baboons were known to the old Egyptians ; and some say that the Thoth Baboon formed one of the minor Deities of the country. They used, in fact, to make mummies of some of these creatures, and especially of a genus called the Papion—a chestnut-coloured creature, with dark paws.

Almost all baboons are quick scented ; and it is through this sense that they discover the plants good for them to eat. And the men who inhabit

the same countries learn to know that what is safe for a baboon is safe for them to eat; only that human beings do not exactly fancy all the animal food that baboons enjoy—for instance, centipedes, scorpions, ants and other insects; although it is said ants have an almond flavour.

Baboons have all sorts of plans for their own government and domestic arrangements.

When they are on a journey, the young males go first, the females and young in the centre, and the old experienced males come last. Besides which they have certain individuals appointed to drive stragglers back to the party, and put a stop to mischief, and see that the advanced guard are not too frolicsome.

They travel in large bands—sometimes of a hundred together, and are not often made captive on a journey, but in their own homes, near which jars of well-sweetened and well-drugged beer are placed, to allure and intoxicate them.

The baboons soon come out, and, with much grinning and chattering, they first taste, and then freely drink of the tempting beverage.

The hunters wait until the animals sleep from its effects, and then easily take them prisoners.

An instance of sympathy was observed, not very long ago, in the Zoological Gardens. An Arabian baboon and an Anubis baboon were kept in one cage; adjoining to which was a cage with a dog-faced baboon. The latter had left a nut within reach of his neighbours, apparently as a bait. The Anubis baboon passed its hand through the wires, to take the nut. He had watched his opportunity, when the dog-faced baboon was apparently looking another way. But the large baboon, while feigning inattention, was watching "out of the corner of his eye;" and no sooner was his neighbour's hand within his reach, than he sprang like lightning upon it, and caught the hand in his mouth. The cries of the sufferer soon brought the keeper to the spot; and by a good deal of physical persuasion, the dog-faced baboon was made to let go his hold. The Anubis baboon then retired to the middle of his cage, moaning piteously, and holding the injured hand against his chest, while he rubbed it with the other one. His partner, the Arabian baboon, now came down from the upper part of the cage; and, making a soothing noise, took the sufferer in its arms, just as a mother comforts an injured child. The crying baboon was

comforted and quieted, and its moans became softer. The way in which it laid its cheek upon the shoulder of its friend, was as expressive as anything could be of sympathy felt and appreciated; and those who witnessed it left with the impression that these creatures were capable of emotions nearly resembling those of human beings.





CHAPTER VI.

MADAGASCAN CLIMBERS.

WE have travelled round Africa, and made acquaintance with the most important among its Monkey and Parrot tribes ; and now, as we are about to cross to India, a great island stands in our way—the island of Madagascar. Shall we find either of these tribes represented there ?

Yes ; both of them—only not of the same description as those whose acquaintance we have made : for Madagascar is peculiar, both in its flora and fauna—very rich in the former, very poor in the latter generally ; but as regards our particular friends, pretty well off.

Madagascar has no large birds and no large animals, with the exception of two species of ox,

and one of wild boar—that is, as far as it is known, for a great part still is unexplored. But it has a great many of the *Quadrumanæ*, though not of the larger kinds, or even of what can be properly called apes or monkeys at all.

But then their cousins, the Lemurs, are Madagascans altogether, and of those there are so many sorts, that out of forty-nine species of mammals, twenty-eight belong to the Lemurs or some cousins of theirs.

In other respects the fauna of Madagascar so much more resembles that of Asia than of Africa, that some scientific persons have come to the conclusion that once on a time Madagascar and Asia were united.

However that may be, we have to do with its four-handed animals just now.

First let me describe what a Lemur is.

The word signifies "A night-walking ghost;" and they do go about at night with a noiseless step, and come and go "like ghosts," as the saying is. They have four hands—not four feet, yet they walk like quadrupeds, and not like monkeys, and their heads resemble the heads of foxes more than those of apes.

Sometimes the name *Cattus* has been applied to a Lemur, from the purring noise which it makes. One kind, called "the Ruffled Lemur," from its ruff of white hair, is about the size of a full-grown cat, and will sit by the fire like a cat or dog; but it is very active, and when leaping holds up its tail in a very graceful way. Its eyes have transverse pupils, which dilate as soon as darkness comes on. It is a timid creature, but when forced to fight, it becomes desperate; and it has a loud, sepulchral voice.

There are a great many varieties of Lemurs; but we do not know so much about them as about most other monkeys, because they are so shy, and therefore in their wild state cannot easily be observed. In general, they are merry and amusing creatures when in captivity, and easily tamed. They are not so clever as other monkeys, but more affectionate and engaging. Some kinds, and especially the Ring-tailed Lemur, seem to like to sit close to a companion, and then the two coil their long furry tails round each other, and as they bury their heads in their fur, they look little more than a mass of tails. Then there is a peculiar construction of the arm and hand which causes

the fingers to close when the arm is stretched out, and thus the creature can suspend itself without



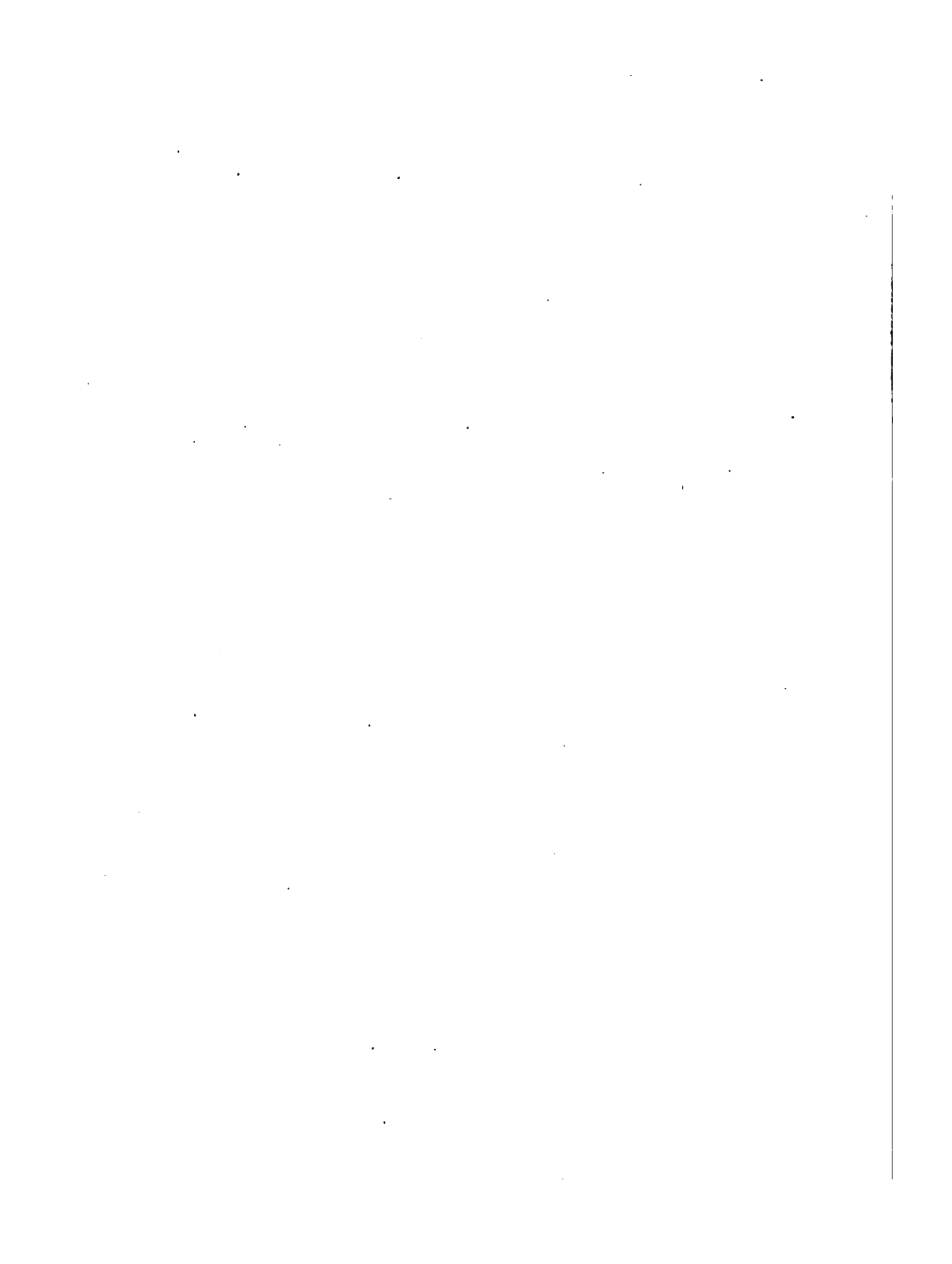
RING-TAILED LEMURS.

fatigue, just as we shall see the American monkeys can, by means of their tails.

The white-fronted Lemur is not so shy as most



WHITE-FRONTED LEMURS.



of the tribe, and it has wonderful agility in climbing; and after a leap of many yards, it will alight so quietly as to attract no attention.

The red Lemur has woolly and rather curly hair; and though red generally, it has a black face, tail, and paws, as well as some black underneath.

The distinction between the different varieties is sometimes chiefly in the teeth or in the form of the face. One kind goes by the name of the *Avalus Laniger*, amongst naturalists; and among the natives of Madagascar, by that of *Amponque*.

There is also a creature called the *Indris*, which is somewhat akin to the Lemurs, and lives in the same island; and a peculiar little *Tarsier*, which is a sort of four-handed rat. *Tarsiers*, however, are found in other parts of the world.

But the *Aye-Aye* is one of the most singular of these half-monkey tribes. It is so named from its cry, and looks like a sort of half-squirrel, half-monkey being, with a sort of surprised look on its wide-awake little face. Its ears are large, erect, and folded, and its tail long and bushy. When it sits down, it loves to bring this tail over its head, and, spreading it out, to cover itself over as with a cloak.

The Aye-Aye has five fingers on its hands, and one of them on the fore-arms is short like a thumb.



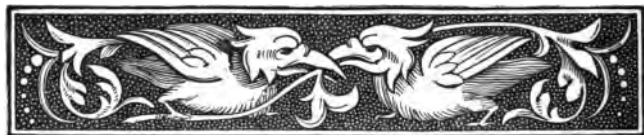
AYE-AYE.

The middle one is very long, and with this it feeds itself, and even helps itself in drinking. One brought to Paris would drink *café au lait* in this

manner. It lives in trees, and leaps with great activity from bough to bough. All these belong to the Lemuridæ, and they are all Madagascan animals, but I have no stories about them.

I am unable also to give any specimens of the Madagascan parrot's intellect. In fact, it is often difficult to tell the native land of many captive parrots; but there are in that island certain varieties, as, for instance, the greater and the lesser *Vasa parraquet*, which is of so dark a grey that it is almost black, and a small green parraquet, with a grey head. And possibly the following story may apply to one of them.

A lady whom I knew had a coachman who was once passing a house, in one of the open windows of which he perceived a parrot's cage. On this he spoke to the bird, saying "Polly, Polly," and probably adding other civilities, but without meeting with any success. The bird, I suppose, was not accustomed to make free with strangers. However, having passed on, without going many steps, he heard the bird talking to herself, and saying, "He called me Polly!" as if quite surprised at the liberty the man had taken with her.



CHAPTER VII.

EAST INDIAN APES.

CROSSING now from the great African island of Madagascar, we will next visit two of the larger East Indian isles—namely, Borneo and Sumatra—in which live some of the fiercest of the ape species. I allude now to the Orang-outangs, those terrible wild men of the woods, which are of two kinds, and called by the natives Mias-Kassar and Mias-Pappan, the latter being the most savage of the two.

They are partly distinguished from the great African apes by the colour of their hair ; for the chimpanzee and gorilla are black, or blackish, in appearance ; and these have hair of a reddish chestnut colour, which is so thick that it resists

all weapons, except just in one spot on the abdomen.

They have terrible fangs and immensely long arms ; so that when standing erect, the hands will touch the ground. But the creature seldom stands erect, and fortunately it is a lazy animal. But when provoked, it attacks in the most desperate way, and makes horrible wounds with its long fangs.

The orang-outang lives in trees, and uses its great arms in climbing. When it attempts to move on the ground its walk is an awkward shuffle, because it cannot place its hands flat, but uses the hinder ones only with the side edges, while it makes crutches of the fore-hands.

Indeed, the construction of the hinder hand is not the only difficulty in walking ; for the orang-outang is destitute of a strong, short ligament which in human beings connects the thigh-bone with the hip-joint. So, on the ground, this formidable animal is awkward and out of its element ; but when once among the boughs, it is at home. When there, it has a curious habit of weaving the branches together into a sort of platform, on which to rest for a time, almost the largest branches being manageable in its strong,

long arms. There is a story of one, a female, who had been badly wounded, making herself



YOUNG ORANG-OUTANGS.

this kind of resting-place on which to lie down and die ; and it took her no more than a minute to construct.

These creatures reign almost undisturbed in

Borneo and Sumatra ; but when hunters do wish to attack one, they fell the trees round the one on which he is seated, and then his tree of refuge. He falls and sustains a shock, and they try to secure him before he has recovered from the fall.

If taken young, they sometimes grow fond of those who have the care of them ; and they may be taught a great deal. For instance, one specimen was taught to take his meals like a young gentleman, and to use a cup and saucer and a spoon and fork. Another, on board ship, learnt so to appreciate the benefit of bedding, that it would rob the passengers of theirs, and strenuously defend what it had taken. Young orang-outangs also can be made to feel ashamed after having been in a passion.

They are hideous animals, however, under any circumstances, and sometimes, even when quite young, have the appearance of anxious, care-worn old men.

An account is given us by Dr. Abel of one that had been taught to walk erect ; but as the position was very difficult, the creature had to help itself by swinging its arms about, over its head, by way of preserving its balance.

Most apes feed only on vegetable food ; but this one had learned to eat almost anything, to drink beer, wine, and even spirits, for which it got such a fancy, that it was once discovered stealing the captain's brandy-bottle. It also became very fond of tea and coffee. While it was on board ship, this animal grew to be quite as much a pet with the sailors as many a little monkey, and it would understand and enjoy many a rough game, even to a sham fight. But the sight of some turtles that were brought on board ship frightened it almost into fits, so that it went about pouting out its lips and screaming hideously. It was afterwards equally alarmed at the sight of a land-tortoise, and also at some men bathing. Monkeys, in fact, appear to dislike anything that creeps or crawls, and a snail thrown into their cage will sometimes cause quite a panic amongst a number of them.

Dr. Abel at first had considerable difficulty in managing this ape, for he broke the bars of his cage, and contrived to unfasten his chain from its staple, and then cunningly coiled it round his neck, as he found it inconvenient to move about with it hanging down ; so at length his keeper

allowed him to range the vessel at his will, and to climb up the rigging when he pleased, which he generally did after playing off some practical joke which he knew would bring him into trouble with the sailors.

Generally the creature was extremely gentle ; but if any one irritated him, he would fly into a violent passion, and behave very much like an angry child.

“ Sometimes, indeed,” says Dr. Abel, “ he seemed driven almost to desperation, and on two or three occasions committed an act which in a rational being would have been called the threatening of suicide. If repeatedly refused an orange when he attempted to take it, he would shriek violently, and swing furiously about the ropes ; then return and endeavour to obtain it. If again refused, he would roll for some time upon the deck, uttering the most piercing screams, and then, suddenly starting up, rush furiously over the side of the ship, and disappear. On first witnessing this act, we thought he had thrown himself into the sea ; but, on a search being made, found him concealed under the chains.”

Our English climate, as usual, soon proved

fatal to the poor beast, which died about eighteen months after its arrival in this country.

M. le Guat tells of an orang-outang which he saw at Java, and which was accustomed not only to make her bed very neatly every day, but would also bind up her head with a handkerchief before retiring to rest. On a voyage to Holland, where she was taken, this ape noticed that the padlock of her chain was opened by a key, and at once she took a little bit of stick, put it into the keyhole, and tried to imitate the action of the key.

One morning, when on shore, she escaped from her chain, and immediately, and with surprising agility, she began to ascend the beams and oblique rafters of a building. Being, like all her species, endowed with extraordinary strength, and capable of prodigious celerity, she was not retaken without some considerable trouble. Though but two and a-half feet high, she was nearly a match for four men, who found it necessary to put forth all their efforts in order to retake her. This they effected by two seizing her legs, while a third took charge of her head, and the other fastened a collar round her neck.

It is no wonder that a full-grown male of more

than double her height should prove a match for many men.

During the time of her liberty, she took the cork from a bottle of Malaga wine, and appeared highly gratified with its contents, which she drank



A PENITENT ORANG-OUTANG.

to the very last drop, and then put the bottle in its place again.

Another person possessed one of these apes, that was very affectionate : if it had done wrong,

and been scolded, it would immediately seat itself on the floor, and clasp its hands together, seeming earnestly to beg forgiveness.

The orang-outang is not a gregarious creature, like its African brother, the chimpanzee; and it does not indulge in the noisy chatter in which many monkeys delight, but seems to live pretty much alone, in a sulky silence, amidst the boughs of the large trees. In these, this great, shaggy, hairy ape, moves about very quickly, or lies lazily enjoying himself on some platform of branches which he has woven together for his own accommodation—his blueish-black face, with its light red hair, being no very attractive object to the passing traveller.

Hitherto I have been speaking of the Mias-Pappan. The other species, namely the Mias-Kassar, is a smaller, slighter animal, and one which a pretty strong man could overpower, of which in the Pappan's case there would be no chance.

A red orang-outang was shown in Edinburgh, which was a very quick and adroit animal. His master once gave him the half of an orange—a fruit of which he was very fond—putting the

other half on a shelf, out of his reach and sight, a proceeding of which the ape seemed to take no notice. But when his master threw himself on the sofa, and closed his eyes, the orang-outang began to prowl about and to plan. He first went near the sofa, and tried to be sure that his master was really asleep. The man, who was watching, succeeded in preserving the appearance of slumber. The monkey then ventured to climb up to the shelf, and getting possession of the rest of the orange, quickly devoured it, all but the peel, which he carefully concealed in the grate, among some paper and shavings.

According to M. D'Obsonville, the female apes manifest great tenderness towards their offspring ; and what is very remarkable, they sometimes at least exercise their parental authority in a sort of judicial and strictly impartial form. Some young ones were once seen to sport and gambol with one another, in the presence of their mother, who sat ready to give judgment, and punish misdemeanours. When any one was found guilty of foul play, or malicious conduct towards another of the family, the parent interfered by seizing the young criminal by the tail, which she held fast

with one of her paws, while she boxed its ears with the other.

But adult apes sometimes will not forgive any similar interference with themselves on the part of a human being.

Mrs. Lee says, that seeing one in a cage misbehave itself towards a companion, she struck him on his paws; and that he never afterwards saw her without throwing himself into a violent passion, and rolling about in a rage; while on one occasion he dragged a part of her dress within the bars and tore it to pieces.

THE SIAMANG.

This is another species of ape, found in Sumatra, and apparently nowhere else. It is a large creature, and covered with short, and very thick black hair, even down to the very finger-nails of its slender hands. Another of its peculiarities is that two of the fingers of its hinder hands are united by means of a membrane half-way down. Under the chin there is a large pouch, without any hair; and this, when the Siamang is angry, becomes greatly distended.

It is in general a timid animal, but when its young are attacked, the mothers throw themselves on to the enemy without any thought of danger to themselves.

People who watch their habits, say that both parents are very careful of their little ones, and most particular in washing and rubbing them dry, notwithstanding their screams, and that it is interesting to watch the mother's devotion to her young.

The Siamangs are quiet for the most part of the day; but at sunrise and sunset they assemble under a leader, and utter the most hideous yellings, in which they appear to try to outdo one another. They are bad walkers, but very rapid in their movements among the branches of the trees. It is then, indeed, almost impossible to catch them; but if they come down to the ground, their long limbs are in their way, and their movements are slow, so that they are more easily taken. Mr. Wood tells us of one that was a great pet on board a ship, and although passionate, was yet quite free from those sulky, sullen tempers, which render most apes so objectionable. There were other monkeys in the ship, and Mr.

Ungka, the Siamang, having no tail, used to amuse himself greatly by playing pranks on those of the monkeys. Sometimes he would drag one all round the deck by that unfortunate member, and at others, up to the very top of the mast, letting the poor little animal drop when he reached the summit.

When he was angry he would distend his pouch enormously, and go about shrieking, "Ra, ra, ra." The creature was affectionate, and took a great fancy to a little Papuan girl on board; and it used to sit with its arms round her neck, sharing her biscuit.

Other specimens of the Siamang are described as equally gentle, and capable of forming attachments.

The captain of Her Majesty's ship "Bellerophon" had an ape, which generally accompanied him in his voyages, and, it is believed, died before Sebastopol. To keep him out of mischief, he was generally chained to a kennel, in which he slept. This kennel he managed to drag about the main deck. In cold weather, he was fond of sitting before the fire used by the cooks, somewhat to their inconvenience. One day, while alone, his

attention was attracted by a kettle, which was in a boiling condition. Jacko began to examine it closely, and at last managed to turn the boiling water over himself. He was on the doctor's list for some time after that, and lost a good deal of hair and some skin. He disliked the sight of a kettle after that, and hence, when the cooks found him in the way, they knew how to get rid of him. Another experiment nearly proved fatal. One cold night, he found the oven-door open, and though the fire was out, the oven was warm. Jacko thought that this would be a good sleeping-place ; so he crept in, and composed himself to sleep. By and by, the cook came, lighted the oven fire, and, without looking in, closed the oven door. Soon a strange noise was heard from the oven. The sentry came to see what was the matter ; and opening the oven, out jumped Master Jacko, chattering at a tremendous rate. He never tried that sleeping apartment again. Soon, he hit upon a safer way of keeping himself warm at night. He found out a way of reaching the fowl-coops, which, it was supposed, were out of his reach. He watched till a fowl put out its head. Seizing it, Jacko dragged the unfortunate bird

out by its neck. He then slept all night with the fowl in his arms, like a baby. After that he often took a fowl to bed with him, never doing them any harm, but finding it helped to keep him warm.

One day he was lost, and no one could imagine where he was, as he kept quiet, which was not his usual habit. At last, one of the clerks went into the office, which was under the poop, and as he opened the door, he saw Master Jacko escaping by the window, which had been left open, and by which he had got in. He had been making up the ship's books in his own fashion. The ink was splashed about all over the place, and he himself was nearly as black as an Ethiopian. He got away with the "Articles of War" in his hand, and at once took to the rigging. "Catch monkey!" was the cry; but before he could be caught, the "Articles of War" had been torn to shreds. Fortunately, there were other copies.

Ascending now to the continent, and reaching the Himalaya Mountains, we come to the

GIBBONS.

These creatures seem to be a sort of link between the large apes, and the little monkeys.

Like the large apes, they have enormously long arms, which are muscular and powerful ; while their extraordinary rapidity of movement amongst the trees has caused them to be called "hylobates," or "tree-traversers."

They are called Lar Gibbons also ; the name Lar being taken from Lara, the Naiad whom Mercury is said to have married, and who thus became the mother of the Lares, or twin demigods, supposed to be given to traversing space. The Romans adopted these Lares as household gods, and represented them under the form of monkeys. Thus the gibbons get these two names from their rapid manner of traversing space. Gibbon is supposed to come from an old Chaldaic word, signifying an ape.

They are active in limb and active in voice, being for ever on the move, and for ever uttering their loud, peculiar cry of "Woo ! woo !"

There are several kinds of gibbons, all lovers of trees, but not all of the same sort of trees, or even of the same localities ; but all being swift and active, have the same capacious lungs, breadth of chest, and length of limbs, with no superabundance of fat. The most active of all is known

as the "Agile Gibbon;" but little has been discovered of the habits of any of the order, on account of their swiftness and shyness.

They are almost like birds, and require to be watched through a telescope as they glide along the different kinds of foliage; indeed, the agile gibbon flits to the very top of the trees on the least alarm.

Perhaps in colour no ape is so variable; those in the Himalayas being black, and those in Malacca, brown, or cream-coloured. But they are found also in Sumatra.

One brought to England had a room fitted up in accordance with its habits, branches being set up at considerable distances from one another, even as far apart as eighteen feet; but she cleared the spaces with the greatest ease, to the immense surprise and amusement of all spectators. One swing and a stretch of her hand to begin with, and on she would go from branch to branch, catching with the greatest ease anything that might be thrown to her during her progress. She never lost her balance, and in a moment could draw up her hind-feet and sit on the first branch as quietly as if she had never moved.

When the gibbon tries to walk on the ground it waddles, and balances itself by its arms—these limbs being so long, that when extended, the distance between the tips of the fingers of the two hands is equal to twice the animal's height.

These kinds of apes live in pairs, and like the Siamang, are most noisy at sun-rise. Their cry is rapid, but not unpleasant, and the female uses many notes. Indeed, the one that was brought to this country seemed quite to go up and down a chromatic scale, ending with two barks, and seeming greatly to enjoy the performance. She was gentle and caressing to all ladies, but did not admit gentlemen into her confidence till she had observed them a little.

There is a species called the "Silvery Gibbon," from the colour of its hair. It has, however, a black face and black palms to its hands. Its eyes are sunk deeply in its head; it has large ears, and a regular fringe of white furry hair round its face; and it is as active as all the rest of its kind amongst the trees and canes of the Malaccas.

Mr. Forbes, in his "Oriental Memoirs," says :

"On a shooting-party, one of my friends killed a female monkey, and carried it to his tent, which was soon surrounded by forty or fifty of the tribe, who made a great noise, and advanced in a menacing manner. When he presented his fowling-piece, they retreated; but one stood his ground, chattering and menacing in a furious manner. At length he came nearer to the tent-door, and finding that his threatenings were of no avail, he began a lamentable moaning, and by every expression of grief seemed to beg for the body. It was given to him. He took it up in his arms, eagerly pressed it to him, and carried it off in a sort of triumph to his companions.





CHAPTER VIII.

INDIAN MONKEYS WITH TAILS.

AND now it is time to take some notice of the many tailed monkeys which abound in the woods of India and other parts of Asia.

First, there is the Simpai, an animal which has much shorter and better-shaped arms than the apes, and hind limbs of double the length of the fore ones. This, too, lives in Sumatra, and for a monkey it may be called beautiful. The hair on its head is black, and stands up straight; but most of the body is of a light chestnut, in parts almost golden, with a black band along the back. This animal is sometimes called the Crested Monkey, and sometimes Presbytes (an old man), on account of its wrinkled face. Compared with the

apes, the Simpai is quite a small creature, measuring only twenty inches from the nose to the root of the tail; but then the tail is three feet long. Some monkeys, nearly like this, but black, are killed for their soft fur, namely, the Negro Monkeys, or Moors, which live in Java, and go in troops. When young they are not black, but a sort of yellowish red. They probably would be made pets of were they better-tempered creatures. The teeth of these monkeys are used also, worked into different kinds of ornaments; and a substance found in their stomachs, called bezoar, composed of phosphate of lime, is thought much of as a cure for the bites of serpents, poison, or wounds made with poisoned weapons. This substance is found, too, in the stomachs of some ruminating animals; but then those of this particular kind of monkey approach the ruminants very closely. In India there is a monkey called the Hoonuman, or Entellus, which is nearly allied to the last, but is a very much larger creature, and this one is connected with the Hindoo mythology, so that it is treated as a sacred animal, and allowed to do just as it likes.

So, Mr. Wood says: "Feeling themselves

master of the situation, and knowing full well that they will not be punished for any delinquency, they take up their position in a village as if they had built it themselves. They parade the streets, they mix on equal terms with the inhabitants, they clamber over the houses, they frequent the shops, especially those of the pastry-cooks and fruit-sellers, keeping their proprietors constantly on the watch. Reverencing the monkey too much to use any active resistance to his depredations, the shopkeepers have recourse to passive means, and by covering the roofs of their shops with thorn-bushes, deprive the thieving deities of their chief point of vantage."

The Entellus, however, somehow or other is aware that stealing is not quite the thing, and therefore always employs a little deceit about it, and takes what he wants when the owner is not looking.

Nevertheless, some of the Hindoos, being believers in the transmigration of souls, think that human souls who have not yet attained perfection dwell in these monkey forms. In fact, to insult the Entellus, or Hoonuman, is considered in some parts as shameful as to insult one of the members

of the royal family, and punished accordingly, while the crime of murdering a monkey used to be visited with instant death.

The Hoonuman's one great foe is the snake, because that creature can climb into the trees after them, and feels no reverence for their divinity. But the monkeys kill more snakes than the snakes do monkeys, for they, too, are subtle creatures, and have some advantages over the snakes.

A Hoonuman is often on the watch for one of his foes, and finds it perhaps coiled up on a branch, and fast asleep. Having made sure of that fact, it steals quietly close to its victim, seizes it by the neck, tears it off the branch, and so scrambles down to the ground with it. Off he hurries with it to some flat stone, and having laid the snake's head upon it, he grinds away with another until he has destroyed the poor thing's fangs and jaws, in which he quite understands that the poison lies, grinning and chattering at the tortured writhings, and peeping underneath from time to time to see how his work goes on. Then, when all danger from it is over, he tosses his conquered and miserable enemy to the young monkeys with every token of triumph and delight.

These are all tailed monkeys, and their antics are different from those of the American species ; for the Asiatic monkeys cannot cling and swing with their tails as do those of the New World, and consequently, although these members of course have a use, yet no naturalist as yet has made out what it is, unless it be as an amusement ; for



PROBOSCIS MONKEYS.

they do not require them to flap off the flies, being able to use their hands for that.

When hunters observe a tree covered with monkeys, they always know that some fierce, wild animal is passing under it.

Another monkey is called the Kahau, from its cry ; or the Proboscis Monkey, from its exceedingly large, ugly snout. Both the Kahau and the Hoonuman are very active, and leap from

tree to tree, a distance of fifteen feet, with ease ; but the natives say that when taking a great jump the Kahau protects his long nose with his hand !

To make up for his ugly face, the Kahau has thick, long fur of very beautiful colours, bright chestnut, golden, or a rich brown, with whitish legs.

We next come to the Macaques, which differ from the last in the following particulars. They have more solid snouts, more muscular limbs, larger bodies and heads, and shorter tails, with well-marked callosities on their hinder quarters.

The Bonnet Monkey is a Macaque, and it is said not to be so good-tempered in captivity as any of the other little monkeys that I have described.

They come from Bengal and Ceylon, and are one of the tribes considered as sacred by the natives, who reverence them according to the fierceness of their temper ;—the more savage, the higher caste, according to the Hindoo,

The Rhesus, or Bunder Monkey, is a short, sturdy species of Macaque, rather richly coloured, and for

cool impudence and audacity he stands unrivalled among his brethren.



BONNET MONKEY.

Captain Johnson thus describes these monkeys as he found them in their wild state: "At Bind-

rabun (which name, I imagine, was originally Baunder-Bund, literally signifying a jungle of monkeys), a town only a few miles distant from the holy city of Muttra, more than a hundred gardens are well cultivated with all kinds of fruit, solely for the support of these animals, which are kept up and maintained by religious endowments from rich natives. When I was passing through a street in Bindrabun, an old monkey came down to the lower branches of a tree we were passing under, and pulled off my Harcarrah's turban, as he was running in front of the palanquin; decamping with it over some houses, where it was impossible to follow him, and was not again seen.

"I once resided a month in that town, occupying a large house on the banks of the river, belonging to a rich native; it had no doors, and the monkeys frequently came into the room where we were sitting, carrying off bread and other things from the breakfast table. If we were sleeping or sitting in a corner of the room, they would ransack every other part. I often feigned sleep to observe their manoeuvres, and the caution with which they proceeded to examine everything. I was much amused to see their sagacity and alertness. They

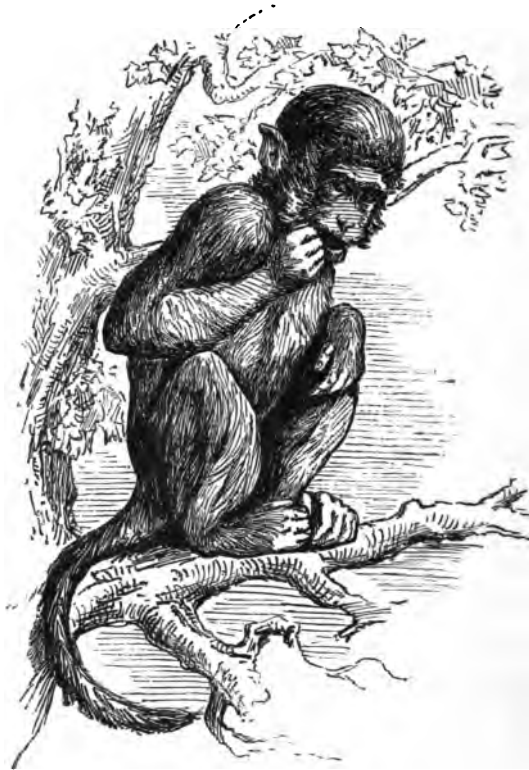


A RHEUS IN MISCHIEF.

would often spring twelve or fifteen feet from one house to another, with one, sometimes two, young ones under their bellies, carrying with them also a loaf of bread, some sugar, or other article ; and to have seen the care they always took of their young would have been a good lesson to many mothers. I was one of a party at Teekarry, in the Bahar district ; our tents were pitched in a large mango-garden, and our horses were picqueted in the same garden, at a little distance off. When we were at dinner a Syce came to us, complaining that some of the horses had broken loose, in consequence of being frightened by monkeys on the trees ; and that, with their chattering, and breaking off the dry branches in leaping about, the rest would also get loose, if they were not driven away.

“As soon as dinner was over, I went out with my gun to drive them off, and I fired with small shot at one of them, which instantly ran down to the lowest branch of the tree, as if he were going to fly at me, stopped suddenly, and coolly put its paw to the part wounded, covered with blood and held it out for me to see. I was so much hurt at the time, that it has left an impression,

never to be effaced, and I have never since fired a gun at any of the tribe.



RHESUS MONKEY.

“Almost immediately after my return to the

party, before I had fully described what had passed, a Syce came to inform me that the monkey was dead. We ordered the Syce to bring it to us; but, by the time he returned, the other monkeys had carried the dead one off, and none of them could anywhere be seen.

“I have been informed by a gentleman of great respectability, on whose veracity I can rely (as he is not the least given to relating wonderful stories), that in the district of Cooch-Bahar, a very large tract of land is actually considered by the inhabitants to belong to a tribe of monkeys inhabiting the hills near it; and when the natives cut their different kinds of grain, they always leave about a tenth part piled in heaps for the monkeys. And as soon as their portion is marked out, they come down from the hills in a large body, and carry off all that is allotted for them to the hills, storing it under and between rocks, in such a manner as to prevent vermin from destroying it. On this grain they chiefly live; and the natives assert, that if they were not to have their due proportion, in another year they would not allow a single grain to become ripe, but would destroy it when green.

In this account, perhaps, superstition has its full influence."

It is said that once two officers and their servants lost their lives in a riot, caused by indignation at their having fired at a Rhesus. And yet the Hindoos by no means relish the depredations which the monkey divinities often work among their crops, but knowing that it is quite impossible to get rid of them by any measures which they feel justified in using, and that the monkeys believe themselves as good as any dark-faced man, they will often beg an Englishman to undertake the task ; and the monkey does not often attempt to trifle with him.

An Englishman once hit upon a strange plan for relieving himself from the company of these tormentors, who had made light of all the bamboo fencings, which had kept away much larger animals, and had even munched up the canes and spit them back in his face.

He hunted a lot of them into a tree, and then felled it. His men then succeeded in catching a lot of young monkeys, and carrying them off. When he got them home, he painted them over with treacle, in which some tartar emetic was

mixed, and let them go. The parent monkeys eagerly welcomed their little ones, and began licking the sweet stuff off their fur. Of course the poor creatures were soon in great misery from its effects, and they got such a lesson that not a monkey ever ventured near that plantation again.

The Rhesus is by no means a nice animal to make a pet of, for it is both jealous and spiteful, besides having a great genius for all sorts of mischief.

Mrs. Bilton gives an account of a Malayan monkey:—

“I had expressed a wish to possess a small monkey, to an officer going on board for China; so the little creature was purchased for me on the pier at Singapore. He was handed to one of the sailors to take care of, and in this way reached England.

“‘You seem very sorry to part with the monkey,’ I said. The sailor replied, ‘Indeed, I am. We have been together for some time, and I am very fond of him, and he of me.’ Still, ‘Good-bye’ was said, and the monkey remained with his new friends.

“He soon became the household pet, the play-

mate of the children. A more affectionate creature cannot exist. He returns the kindness shown him in various ways. He licks the hand that caresses him, and chatters with delight when called a 'good boy.'

"He is peculiar in his likes and dislikes. To some visitors he is remarkably friendly; while to others he shows the greatest dislike. He seems to be guided in some measure by his nose. It is laughable to see him eye new-comers, and sniff them, while he is in doubt about their characters.

"He is always ready for a scamper round the garden and a swing on the willow-tree. If you want the flowers gathered, he is delighted to help. He is never more delighted than when his little hands are filled with flowers. In the summer he was sick, and sat by the fire, the image of sadness. One of the children brought him a geranium; he held it for hours in his tiny hand, looking at it with evident admiration.

"I am compelled to admit that he must not be trusted in a room alone. To prevent his too free use of the vases, inkstand, etc., he is secured by a strap passed round his body.

"A workman came to the house to do some

repairs ; he was surprised to see a monkey sitting on the fender, and enjoying the warmth of the fire. 'A monkey !' he exclaimed ; 'will it bite ?' 'Bite !' said the servant ; 'Jacko bite ! You won't bite, will you ?' said she to the monkey.

"But presently the young man was near the fireplace, and very soon he took the liberty of handling the monkey's tail, and of giving it a sharp pinch. Jacko, with a yell, sprang at him. The workman, frightened, ran upstairs, nor ever stopped till he found that the monkey was not in pursuit."

Major S., of the Bengal army, had a pet monkey, a mischievous beast enough, but affording so much amusement as to compensate for the trouble. The Major, however, was ordered upon active service, and was obliged to part with his little friend. He sold him to the keeper of a menagerie, who was going to England.

Two years after, the Major himself returned home ; and, going through a town where a menagerie was being exhibited, he went in to see the show. Going to the monkey's cage, he saw, to his surprise, his former pet. The monkey's frantic joy and cries affected all present, and the Major himself resolved at once to purchase him

back. But he arranged to leave him in his present quarters until his return from London, where he was going for two or three days.

Unfortunately, the business which called him to town detained him for nearly a week; and when he came back to the menagerie to claim his purchase, the keeper told him, sorrowfully, that his little pet was dead. On his old master's departure, his wild excitement changed into the deepest despondency. He refused to eat. No delicacies could tempt him; he pined away, day by day; and, shortly before the Major reappeared, his poor monkey had died of a broken heart.

The mental history of this poor monkey is obvious enough. He had been consigned, from necessity, to a menagerie life. At first there was some novelty in it; but it soon became monotonous and dreary. Still he went on, one day just like another. On a sudden, his old master appeared, and at once hope sprang up. Might he return to the happy life of former days? The thought was ecstasy. He was wild with excitement. But, alas! the Major went away, took his leave, and came no more. All his bright expectations vanished. Must he live on, for all the rest of

his days, in that den? No; despair took possession of him. He would live no longer!

How the Black Macaque got its name I cannot tell, for it is a tailless monkey, which in form resembles the Magot, though it differs in colour, and in the possession of a curious sort of crest. But this animal is a native of the Philippines, and adjoining groups of islands.

One kind of Macaque, called the Bruh, or Pig-tailed Monkey, is an inhabitant of Sumatra, and there is pressed into the service of mankind by being caught young, and trained to climb the cocoa-nut palm, and gather the fruit for the men of the country, actually learning to select the ripe ones only.

Their cunning was once shown by a pair of Bruhs in a cage, in a curious manner.

A young lady was passing who wore a hat trimmed with some beautiful white feathers. The monkeys' eyes twinkled, but they made no movement likely to excite attention, but went on playing off their pranks, and holding out their paws for nuts, until she came near enough to the bars. Then down came one of the apes, and as quick as lightning one of the white feathers was seized,

and after a good deal of tasting and examination, the Bruh stuck it behind one of his own ears, so that it drooped over his head in something the same manner in which it had drooped in the hat,



BRUH WITH A FEATHER.

and then he paraded about his cage immensely proud of his appearance, to the great amusement of all beholders.

But his companion was jealous of his fine appearance, and made a dash at the prize from

behind. Mr. Bruh, however, was fully on his guard, and putting the feather between his teeth, he mounted one of the suspended ropes with wonderful agility, and managed somehow also to hitch the rope up after him ; so that, when he reached the top, he could coil it all up and sit at the top in entire security. Still, it was not altogether a pleasant seat ; and after a time he felt obliged to descend ; and then ensued a lively scuffle after the unfortunate feather until the keeper appeared, and the delinquents quickly retreated to the farthest corner of the cage. The feather was eventually recovered, but in such a condition that the owner's hat would have been in no way improved by its restoration to its old place in it. But the monkey's mischief was by no means exhausted. As soon as the keeper's back was turned he looked out for another chance, and very soon a lady's bracelet, composed of large beads, was snatched from its owner's arm, and in great danger of suffering from his examination of its construction ; but fortunately once again the keeper's voice was heard, and down went the beads in a trice. We all know tricks like these, and the writer once saw a lady's watch snatched

from her side, and carried up to the top of a monkey's cage, from which height it was let fall, and as may be supposed, not entirely without injury. But this pair of macaques which stole the feather and bracelet were so dexterous in their thefts that their cage was literally strewn with trophies.

In Ceylon, and the East Indies generally, there is a monkey which some persons consider as a link between the macaques and the baboons.

It resembles the latter in general form, and has a tail furnished with a brush ; but then its snout is not so brutal as the baboon's, and the nostrils are not, as with them, situated at the very end of it.

This creature, which is called the "Wanderoo," or Onanderoo, and by the Indians, "Nilbandar," has an immensely-heavy mass of hair on the top of the head and round the face, which has something the appearance of a judge's wig, and makes it look very venerable. To this wig there is also added a beard, sometimes nearly white, and this, of course, gives a still more dignified appearance to the monkey. This animal is pretty free in

its wild state from the mischievous disposition of its relatives ; but in captivity it very soon grows savage and malicious.

A lady writes from Krishnagur, in India, and relates the following incident :—"One morning a little sick and wounded black-faced monkey, quite young, was brought to our house ; where it was taken such good care of by our servants, that it soon got quite well.

"It became a great pet. There was an old monkey of another kind about the premises, which took a great fancy to the new comer. The old monkey was called Moonie, and the little one, Fanny. They soon were the greatest of friends ; but I have seen Moonie box Fanny's ears, if she touched any food which did not belong to her. Well, one day, in the hot weather, all things being still and quiet, I heard a frightful yelling and screaming ; and I soon found that two great black-faced monkeys were having a fight with Moonie, who, in her excitement, had broken her chain, and driven the intruders away. I was glad to see little Fanny, out of reach, on her favourite branch, and safe from the assailants.

"But this did not last long. Two days after-

wards, seventeen large black-faced gentlemen came galloping up the avenue, with their long tails erect, and, pushing Moonie quite aside, they carried off little Fanny in triumph.

“Poor Fanny’s native wood was at least two miles off. She had been taken care of at our house for eight months, since she had been found wounded and brought to us ; yet here were, first, two monkeys, and then seventeen large fellows, their tails a couple of yards long, and, on the whole, more than a match for anything we could do.”

Sir William Jones, the great Oriental scholar, thus describes a Loris, of which he made a pet. This animal is somewhat allied to the Lemurs of Madagascar, only that it has no tail.

“He was usually gentle, except in the cold season, when his temper seemed wholly changed ; and his Creator, who made him so sensible of cold, to which he must often have been exposed even in his native forests, gave him, probably for that reason, his thick fur, which we rarely see on animals in tropical climates. To me, who not only constantly fed him, but bathed him twice a-week in water accommodated to the seasons,

he was at all times grateful, and used to distinguish me clearly from others ; but when I disturbed him in winter he was usually indignant, and used to reproach me with the uneasiness he felt, though no possible precautions had been omitted to keep him in a proper degree of warmth. At all times he was pleased with being stroked on the head and throat, and frequently suffered me to touch his extremely sharp teeth ; but his temper was always quick ; and when he was unseasonably disturbed, he expressed a little resentment by an obscure murmur, like that of a squirrel ; or a greater degree of displeasure by a peevish cry, especially in winter, when he was often as fierce on being much importuned as any beast of the woods.

“ From half an hour after sunrise to half an hour before sunset, the Loris slept without intermission, rolled up like a hedgehog ; and as soon as he awoke, he began to prepare himself for the occupation of his approaching day, licking and dressing himself like a cat—an operation which the flexibility of his neck and limbs enabled him to perform very completely. He was then ready for a slight breakfast, after which he took a short

nap, but when the sun was quite set, he recovered all his vivacity. His ordinary food was the sweet fruits of India—plantains always, and mangoes during the season ; but he refused peaches, and was not fond of mulberries, or even of guavas ; although he lapped milk eagerly, he did not object to plain water. Generally he was not voracious, but of grass-hoppers he never could have enough, and he passed the whole night during the hot season in prowling for them. When a grass-hopper, or any other insect equally palatable, alighted within his reach, his eyes, which he fixed on his prey, glared with uncommon fire ; and having drawn himself back to spring on it with greater force, he seized the victim with both his fore-paws, but held it in one of them only while he devoured it.

“ My little friend was, on the whole, very engaging ; and when he was found lifeless in the same posture in which he would naturally have slept, I consoled myself with believing that he had died without much pain, and had lived with as much pleasure as he could have enjoyed in a state of captivity.”

The Flying Lemur, or Colugo, which is pretty

common in the Indian Islands, is a sort of link between monkeys and bats. It is, indeed, very like that large bat known as the Flying Fox, having a large membrane which connects its limbs together ; still, it is not a bat.





CHAPTER IX.

PARROTS OF INDIA AND THE SOUTHERN ISLES.

THE southern countries of Asia and the islands dependent have many and gorgeous kinds of parrots and parraquets. The latter, with their elegant forms, every one knows; for they are general favourites—not so much on account of their powers of talking, as for their pretty, winsome ways.

The Indian Parrot needs a little description. Its peculiarities are naked cheeks, an immense, overlapping mandible to its bill, a crest of long, narrow feathers, and a short and square tail. The foot, too, is peculiar, having a short instep, or “tarsus,” on which they often lean when walking. Greek

authors mention parrots as birds known to them, and especially refer to the ring-parraquets, of which they mention three or four different kinds, which Alexander the Great, after his conquests in India, had brought back with him to Europe. Even in India they have ever been favourite pets; and after they were brought into Greece, and from thence taken to Rome, they won their way by their grace, beauty, and elegance, and still more by their affectionate ways.

The "Indian Bird" was often honoured with a splendid cage even then, and the most extravagant price was sometimes given for it.

Lady Clementina Davies writes :—

"Lady Aldborough was ordered to travel abroad. She sent me a beautiful little parraquet to take care of for her. I was delighted to have it, as I had often admired it very much.

"The sagacity and affection of this little bird were very remarkable, for it not only talked, but it talked sense. I used to take it out for walks in Kensington Gardens. It would fly from branch to branch, but would always come down at my call. I became so much attached to it, that I took it out not for walks only, but also in my drives. When

at home it would come and sit on my shoulder or on my finger, and at dinner would fly on the table and taste everything.

"When Lady A. returned to England, she sent to ask me for the bird. I was much distressed at losing it. I missed it very much, and went all over London to look for one like it.

"After some weeks, Lady A. sent to me to say that she feared her bird was dying, for it would neither eat nor drink, and seemed to be moping to death. She begged me to come and see her, but to keep a thick veil over my face, and not to speak when I came into the room. I went, and the drawing-room door was scarcely shut behind me, when the bird flew to me, but it was so weak that it fell at my feet. I lifted it up, and as soon as it was a little recovered, it began talking to me in an excited manner. I held it close to me, and Lady A. said, 'I have heard of great affection in animals, but I never saw anything like this. You must accept the bird, for I could not bear to see it die.' I was very much pleased to have my little pet back again; and in a few weeks it was quite recovered."

The parraquet best known to us is the elegant

green bird, which in the male has a rosy ring round its neck ; but about eleven or twelve sorts have now been discovered ; and they come from India, the Archipelago, from the north of Australia, and from Ceylon.

The Alexandrine Parraquet is a green-ringed one, but has a spot of dark purplish red on each shoulder, a black throat, and a black band between the eyes, with a rich ruby beak. This bird comes from Ceylon, and was named after Alexander the Great. It is a very affectionate bird, and learns easily to talk.

An Alexandrine parraquet, belonging to a friend of Mr. Wood, is thus described :—

“She is a most affectionate little creature, and cannot bear that any of her friends should leave her without bidding farewell. I once saw her set up such a screech because her mistress happened to go away without speaking to her, that she had to be taken out of the cage and comforted before she would settle quietly.

“When she first came to England she was landed at Plymouth, and put into a rickety old cage, with two bins for food, and sent by herself, per train, to London. On arriving there, she was

forwarded to a person who had formerly been a servant of my wife. Here the good woman, hearing a chattering downstairs, went down to her back parlour, and there saw Polly seated on the cat's back, and chattering away with the greatest enjoyment.

"We came to town shortly after, and there first saw her, and she soon began to love us. Her favourite place is on my shoulder, where she delights to sit at lunch time, after having helped herself, from my plate, to whatever she most fancied. When she wishes to attract attention, she gives my ear a little peck.

"Whenever I come home, and wherever Polly may be, no sooner do I put the key in the door, than Polly gives a peculiar and shrill call, and every one knows that I have come. Even late at night, on entering, Polly knows I am there, and though apparently asleep, she utters one little note of welcome."

Then there is the Blossom-headed Parraquet, which has a green and blue tail, and a head like a plum.

It is generally taken for granted that these and all other talking birds simply imitate sounds, without attaching any sense to what they say.

But this is mere assertion ; and as dogs do know the meaning of much that is said to them, it is hard to see why a parrot may not learn to attach a meaning to what it is taught to say.

I knew a cockatoo that used to be kept chained to its pole. Now, if you went to that bird at breakfast-time, he would generally say, "Cocky wants his bread." If he was eating anything, and let it fall, he would look down at it, then at any one who happened to be talking to him, and say, "Cocky wants."

I have a green parraquet myself, who always says, "Good-bye" when a visitor leaves the room, or makes a move to go, and does so generally when she is being carried away herself.

A friend has often told me, too, of a parrot to whom she once said, taking away the water-glass, "Oh, no, Polly is not thirsty ;" to which the bird replied, "Polly *is* thirsty."

Parrots certainly talk a great deal as babies chatter, for the pleasure of hearing their own voices ; but, for all that, some appear at times to know what they are saying ; at least, it is hard to think otherwise in such cases as that of my friend's.

At other times they comically hit on the right thing to say, as for instance, one parrot having upset the gravity of a family party at prayer-time by calling out, "Cheer, boys, cheer," on being carried out of the room, remarked, "Sorry I spoke;" and another, during a pause in an argument, said positively, "There can be no doubt about it."

I do not know where the bird came from which in the fourteenth century belonged to a certain cardinal, who paid a hundred gold pieces for her, on account of her wonderful talking powers. That parrot could repeat without hesitation the whole of the Apostles' Creed—more, perhaps, to her own credit than of the person who taught her.

Mr. S. O. Round relates a remarkable incident, which he vouches for as true :—

"A few years since, the captain of one of the Bristol Steam Navigation Company's vessels was possessed of a parrot of remarkable talking faculties; and this bird accompanied him on his voyages. The captain was notorious for a habit of taking God's name in vain, on every occasion, in a most awful manner. One day, something having provoked him, he gave vent to a torrent

of oaths, of the most appalling kind. The parrot listened in silence, till its master, becoming exhausted, a pause ensued. The bird then began, and repeated all that he had heard, in so wonderful and unexpected a manner, that the captain, as he sat by and listened, was struck perfectly dumb with terror; so much so, that, after some thought, he made a vow that, God helping him, he would never swear again. This vow," Mr. Round says, "he faithfully kept."

During the great Peel demonstration in Edinburgh, a parrot is said to have accosted a visitor who approached his cage with the inquiry, "Well, what do you think of Sir Robert Peel now?"

The following story is rather famous:

Some parrot-fanciers had agreed to meet in a year's time, when each was to show a bird for a prize; proficiency in talking to be, by common consent, the criterion of merit.

On the day appointed all the rest came, each duly bringing his parrot; one only appeared without his bird. On being asked the reason, he said that he had tried to train one, but that he was such a stupid bird he was quite ashamed to bring him. The excuse was held to be inadmis-

sible. All the others insisted that, stupid or clever, he must be produced, and his master accordingly went to fetch him. No sooner did he enter the room with the bird on his hand, than the latter exclaimed, "Oh, what a lot of parrots!" And the prize was immediately voted to him by acclamation.

"A soldier," says Mr. Wood, "was entering a courtyard of a gentleman's house, when a hoarse voice uttered, in a commanding tone, the word 'Attention!' With the instinct of discipline, the man threw himself into position, waiting for the next word. But the same voice called out, 'You're a fool, sir!' and he found that the command came from a bird."

Another parrot overlooked, for two or three days, a party of painters engaged upon an outdoor job. They frequently warned passengers off, by the cry of "Wet paint!" The bird caught up the cry, and made it one of his amusements to startle passengers, and make them look round, by the cry of "Wet paint!"

A singular instance of this pleasure found in "making fools" was seen in a parrot, whose practice was to accost some one passing near his cage,

and then to begin to talk fast. The passenger stopped, and began to talk to the parrot. Then the bird seemed to be struck dumb, and unable to utter a word. The passenger walked away, wondering and disappointed. So soon as his back was fairly turned, the parrot set up a loud laugh.*

A tradesman who had a shop in the Old Bailey, opposite the prison, bought two parrots—a grey and a green.

The green parrot was taught to speak when there was a knock at the street door; the grey, whenever the bell rang; but they only knew two short phrases.

The house in which they lived had an old-fashioned, projecting front, so that the first floor could not be seen from the pavement; and on one occasion they were left outside the window by themselves, when some one knocked at the street door. "Who is there?" said the green parrot. "The man with the leather," was the reply, to which the bird answered, "Oh! oh!" The door not being opened, the stranger knocked a second time. "Who is there?" said green poll. "Who is there?" exclaimed the man; "why don't you

* "Feathered Friends," p. 168.

come down?" "Oh! oh!" repeated the parrot. This so enraged the stranger, that he rang the bell furiously. "Go to the gate," said a new voice, which belonged to the grey parrot. "To the gate?" repeated the man, who saw no such entrance, and who thought the servants were bantering him. "What gate?" he asked, stepping back to view the premises. "New-gate," responded the grey, just as the angry applicant discovered who had been answering his summonses.

Mr. G. C. Yates gives the following account of a parrot, which, he says, "was brought from the Renia River."

"We christened her 'Coco.' For the first week or two she talked nothing but some foreign lingo; but we soon began to teach her English, and in a very short time she startled our friends by asking, 'How do?' or 'Who are you?' of any one who entered the room. In the course of a few weeks she began to attempt longer sentences; and when the servant entered the room she would exclaim, 'Good morning! how's your poor feet?' or, in the evening, 'Are you going to bed? Well, good night.' If she saw any one

with a book, she would cry, 'Say your lesson, you dunce—a, b, c, d.'

"Coco was not a screaming bird, but she would make a noise if she saw meals going on without having her share. She would cry, 'Coco wants her tea.' Whenever we gave her anything, she would say, 'Thank you;' or sometimes, 'Is it hot? well, blow it.' On one occasion we had a turkey for dinner, and she cried out, 'Give Coco a bone.' We gave her a leg-bone. After picking it for some time, she held it in one of her claws, much as an Irishman holds his shillelagh, and said, 'Pa, do you want to fight? Well, come on; where's your stick?' brandishing the bone, and knocking the side of the cage, and ending with, 'Well, you are a funny Coco!'

"We hung her cage to the ceiling by a rope and pulley. She would get on the top of the cage and flutter her wings, and cry out to me, 'Give us a twist, old fellow!' Then I would give the cage a turn, and she would send it spinning round.

"She could imitate any animal she heard. Often I have been taken in by her, and have called from my bedroom to the servant, 'Annie, the chickens are in the house!' and the reply has

been, 'No, sir, it's only Coco.' One day the washerwoman came in, suffering from a bad cold, and ever after Coco would imitate the noise of a person suffering from a severe cold. When she saw any one put on their hat, she would cry, 'Are you going to take a walk? Well, go, then.' In the afternoon, hearing the clock strike, she would cry, 'Pauline, it's five o'clock, go and meet your pa!'

"Returning home one evening, I heard a scream, and rushed to the room whence the noise proceeded, but saw nobody. I looked up to Coco's cage, and saw her shaking on her perch, and in a moment she fell to the bottom of the cage. I raised her head; she looked piteously at me, faintly said, 'Poor Coco!' and died."

Mr. Smee remarks that some parrots, who are ready enough to learn short sentences, will mix the words incorrectly. He adds, "I am acquainted with a grey parrot, which cries out, 'Poor Poll,' 'Pretty Poll,' 'Good morning,' 'You old rascal,' 'Betty, you old wretch.' She will then go on with, 'Elizabeth,' 'Pretty Poll,' 'Puss, puss,' 'Betty,' 'Pretty rascal,' 'Don't bite;' then part of a chant; then a mew; then a bark; and so on,

for an hour together. She will take part in a conversation, and seems delighted if she can make people laugh."

He quotes an Eastern anecdote, which is to the point. "A Persian, who kept a parrot, had taught it a short sentence, 'What doubt is there of that ?' One day he took it to the bazaar, and fixed the price at a hundred rupees. A rich Mogul looked at the parrot, and exclaimed, 'Are you worth a hundred rupees ?' The bird replied, 'What doubt is there of that ?' Upon which the Mogul, greatly struck, bought the bird, and carried it home. But he soon found that to whatever he asked, he received the same answer. In his vexation he exclaimed, 'What a fool was I to buy this bird !' To which the parrot rejoined, 'What doubt is there of that ?' The Mogul, pleased again, ordered his people to give the bird its liberty."

Another parrot of whom Mr. Smee speaks, had lived with a chaffinch, and caught its note so accurately, that it was impossible to tell the one from the other. In summer time she was placed in a tree in the garden, and there she would repeat the chaffinch's call ; and these birds would come

from all parts of the neighbourhood, and settle on the tree. But then, sometimes, in her pleasure, she would suddenly call out, 'Pretty Poll!' upon which the chaffinches, astonished and alarmed, would at once take flight, leaving Polly terribly disconcerted that all her visitants had so suddenly absconded.

One other parrot with whom Mr. Smee came in contact, had abilities of a peculiar sort. At a relative's house, where the parrot lived, Mr. Smee had left a bound volume on the table; and the next day found that Polly had torn the cover to pieces. On ringing for the servants, they told him that the parrot had lately found a way of opening her cage whenever she pleased. It was therefore determined to put a padlock on the cage, a padlock of that kind which opens by pressing a spring. Yet the next day the bird was again found loose, with the padlock at the bottom of the cage. She was at once put back into the cage, and the padlock properly fixed; but she walked deliberately down, took hold of the padlock, opened it, and walked in triumph out of the cage, with the padlock in her beak. "I was so delighted," says Mr. Smee, "with that bird's clever-

ness, that I forgave her the injury she had done to my book."

Enough of parrots and parraquets for the present. We turn now to some of their near relations—the Cockatoos. These are considered as Australian birds ; but they are also found in many of the Indian islands. They make their nests, like others of the Scansores, in decayed trees, and feed on fruits and seeds ; but their very strong bills enable them also to crack some stone fruits and get at the kernels. They have acquired their name from their own peculiar cry, and are not quick to learn many other words. Of course their great characteristic is the remarkable crest, which they can raise or depress at will. The ground-colour of all common cockatoos is white ; but there is a species more resembling other parrots, only possessed of a crest, the ground-colour of which is black. This last is found only in New Holland.

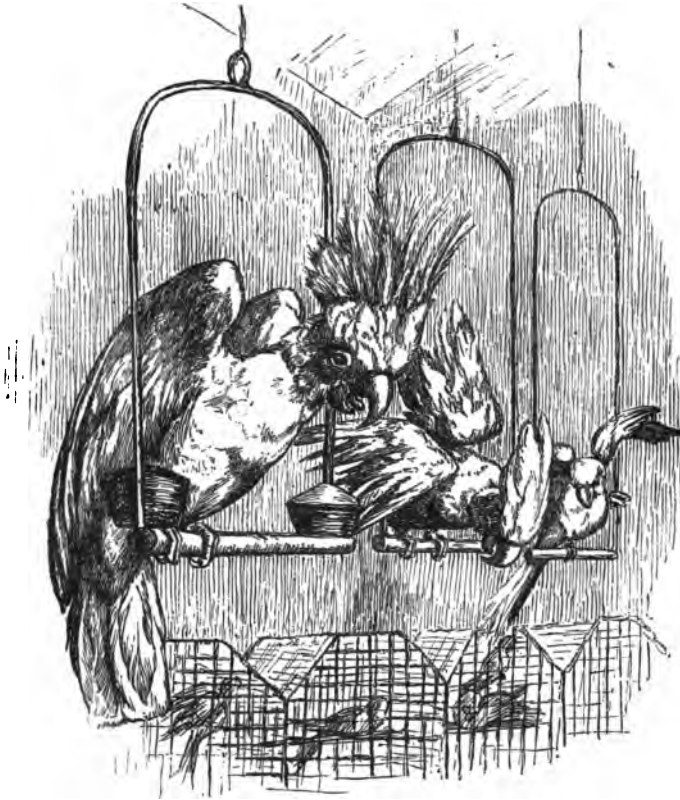
Cockatoos are, however, divided into two species by the difference in the shape of the crest. In one it takes a rounded form, and falls back over the neck ; while in the other it is lengthened into a point, folded together, and curved upwards.

There is the Rose-crested Cockatoo, and there are the greater and lesser Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, and it is said that one kind is frequently met with on the African coasts.

Professor Jones thus describes a visit paid by him to the Zoological Gardens, in which he very inadvertently greatly offended and alarmed one of these birds. His entrance into the parrot-house was, in fact, a signal for such a fit of indignation on the part of every bird in it, as he approached, that he was utterly at a loss to imagine the cause. "Dire was the screaming," he says, "fierce the gesticulation of every scansorial biped among them. Parrots, macaws, and cockatoos seemed equally indignant at our intrusion; and such a clamour as they raised, such a whirlwind of discordant sounds, would certainly have done credit to Babel. Overwhelmed with noise, deafened with the terrible cacaphony, we beat a retreat, and right gladly escaped into the quiet glades of the garden.

"On our return, after the lapse of an hour or two, finding that all was tranquil within, we again entered the parrot-house, and again were greeted with a concert, beating marrow-bones and

cleavers and all rough music imaginable. Won-



ENRAGED COCKATOOS.

dering what could be the cause of a reception so uncourteous, where before I had always been a

welcome visitor, I approached an old favourite cockatoo, and, reproachfully holding up a little walking-cane before her face, began to expostulate with her on such behaviour. We could scarcely have imagined the picture of rage and terror that the bird presented. With crest erected to the utmost, staring eyes, and limbs trembling all over, she retreated to the extreme limits of her chain, and struck with her wings at my cane, as if fighting for very life; and so indeed she was, or thought she was; for, on my attention being thus directed to my little cane, I appreciated at once the cause of her fury. The head of the walking-stick was carved in imitation of that of a serpent, with brilliant eyes, and a most grim and threatening aspect. The supposed appearance of so terrible a foe amongst their peaceful party had, by an instinct true and natural, roused them to self-defence, affording at once a proof of the carver's skill, who had so ornamented my rattan, and an illustration of instinctive horror of a very interesting character."

The Rev. E. Spooner writes :—

"I have lately been visiting a friend in

Staffordshire, who possesses a large grey cockatoo. "Poll" is a most communicative bird, and a great friend of the family. On a fine day she generally passes several hours in the back yard, outside her cage ; for, though unchained, she rarely leaves her house. She is good friends with all the yard dogs, house cats, and poultry ; but if any strange dog or cat enters the yard, she flies at them at once with a tremendous scream. At night she sleeps in the kitchen, and her usual companions are three cats. A little while ago, an orphan chicken was introduced into the circle, in order that it might be brought up by hand. 'Poll' and the cats alike favoured it, and its general roosting-place was on one of the cat's backs. One morning, the kitchen-maid went downstairs early. Before she entered the kitchen, she heard 'Poll' talking loudly, and, on opening the door, was witness to a curious sight. 'Poll' was seated on the dresser, with a large piece of bread in her claw. Round her, on the floor, were the three cats and the chicken. With strict impartiality the bird was breaking off pieces of the bread, and dropping them to her pensioners in turn, who received the dole without squabbling, and with

gratitude, listening at the same time to all the words in her vocabulary, which were uttered in rapid succession. The occurrence has since been repeated, and I have thought it a curious illustration of instinct."

Snakes are the common foes of monkeys and parrots. A lady travelling in India, and giving an account of a pleasure trip to a sacred mountain, relates the following circumstance :—"A young officer had slept in an open verandah, with a parrot's cage upon a table close beside him; and a venomous snake had got into the cage, and eaten the parrot in the night, and then being too big to pass through the bars again, was found and killed in the morning."

The cockatoo seems to be nearly allied to the Alexandrine Parraquet, which is one of the most anciently known of the parrot-tribe; only that this parraquet is a native of India and Ceylon.

Some parraquets also are found in the Feejee Isles. In many of the South Sea and East India Isles there are lovely and brilliantly-coloured birds of this order, as well as of Lories, which are nearly connected with the Parrot tribe. Red and blue

birds of this kind are seen in the Moluccas; and in Zealand there is a parrot called the Ka Ka, which is of dark grey, passing into brown and orange.

The variety of this splendid order of birds is quite extraordinary. There really seems no end to it. This may be especially said of Australia, where the plumage is gorgeous. Truly if "fine feathers make a fine bird," some of the finest are to be seen there. But then the great charm of the parrot is wanting; for hardly any of these are good talkers. The best ears and the greatest portion of sense are more often found clothed in sober tints.





CHAPTER X.

TROPICAL AMERICA AND ITS CLIMBERS.

BRAZILIAN FORESTS AND THEIR INHABITANTS. MACAWS, GREEN AMAZON PARROT, AND OTHERS.

QF all the forests in the world, perhaps there are none so wonderful as those of Brazil. To get a good idea of one of them, "We must," says one author, "think of the characteristic forms of vegetation," prodigious trees of the leguminous order ; a specimen of which, fifteen Indians, with outstretched arms, could only just embrace. It was, in fact, eighty-four feet in circumference. The leaves of these trees are often very large, of a very bright green colour, and very graceful. Then there are a multitude of bushy trees, with large leaves, sometimes downy, sometimes glossy, and they give a very

thick shade. Other trees there are, with tall, straight trunks and rounded heads, some with lanceolate leaves, in which the veins are strongly marked ; and often the blossoms are very large and handsome.

Well, we must just picture to ourselves a forest composed of such trees as these, covered with parasites bearing lovely blossoms ; and an undergrowth of all sorts of plants, among which are the tree ferns, orchidaceous shrubs, and what not. The forest, beautiful in itself, has, however, many other attractions besides the foliage ; for "monkeys frolic through the verdant arches, chasing each other from tree to tree, or from bough to bough. Squirrels scamper up and down, as if unable to rest for joy. Coatis gambol among the fallen leaves, or rival the monkeys in their nimbleness. Pacas and agoutis roam about, ready to take flight at the slightest alarm. The sloth, disturbed by the general movement, seeks a spot where he may find quiet and repose. The tiny deer, little larger than a lamb, snuffs the air, and fearlessly bounds along, as though knowing that no enemy is near."

"Birds of brilliant plumage fly amongst the trees. The lonely trogon calls mournfully to her

absent mate. The rattling of the woodpecker sounds from some lofty bough. 'Toucano, toucano,' comes loudly from some tall tree, where the toucans feast on the thickly-clustered fruit. The mot-mot utters the quick cry from which he gets his name. Tuneful thrushes ring their alternate notes like the voice of a single bird. Parrots are chattering, parraquets screaming, manakins are piping in every tree without rest. Wood-pigeons, startled, take flight, and pheasants of many kinds go whirring through the woods. Tiny creepers in gay livery run up the thick tree trunks, stopping their busy search now and then to watch the intruding strangers. And most beautiful of all, the humming-birds, like living gems, dart by, now stopping to kiss the sweet-scented flowers, now furiously battling with some rival humble bee. Butterflies of the richest hue, large as one's hand, flutter past; and from the flowers above comes the noisy hum of myriads of gaily-coloured insects. The lizard, in his gorgeous coat of green and gold, starts from his hole in the bank of sand, stopping every instant, with raised head and quick eye, watching for the appearance of danger; and armies of ants in their

busy toil, swarm by without ceasing. These, and many another strange or beauteous creature, dwell in these deep virgin forests, which are seldom silent, except perhaps at midday, when the heat is extreme."

Can we not fancy our red, blue, or grey parrot friends engaged in a chase with many a mischievous monkey in such a spot? The parrots' tails are so tempting, and the little monkeys so quick, and then a peck at their fingers such excellent fun, that the two creatures never tire of it. But after all, their shrieks of delight or howls of rage are lost, or nearly so, in the general living chorus, or varied by a louder scream when some prowling ocelot pounces on the helpless climber; or by the sound of the bell-bird, perhaps, who from some tall tree-top sounds his note like the ring of metal.

There is a lull as twilight comes on; and the chattering birds and the diurnal monkeys give way to vampires, bats, crickets, or hoarse bullfrogs; but long ere morning breaks again the red monkey makes his moan; and other creatures soon fall in, one after another, until the general song again begins.

In some places the jaguar, the puma, the tapir, and many other wild animals abound, particularly in the neighbourhood of rivers; but where these creatures lurk, there, too, very often are heard the cries of many monkeys; and at the same time the most magnificent macaws may be seen soaring overhead, exhibiting their splendid plumage in the blazing sunlight, and screaming wonderfully at the same time. But other gay parrots will be mixed with them, or at least quite near, with flocks of little parraquets; in short, the gorgeous splendour of those forests must be seen to be realized.

But not only in the forests do these birds live. They love to feast themselves on the maize and cotton plantations, and some flock to these in numbers, and quarrel there very desperately for the booty.

Of all the parrot tribe, the macaw is the most gorgeous, and it is peculiarly American. Mr. Edwardes thus writes about them, as he met with them in his voyage up the Amazon. "The woods were of the loftiest growth, and filled with game, both birds and animals. Here we first encountered the gorgeous macaws, climbing over

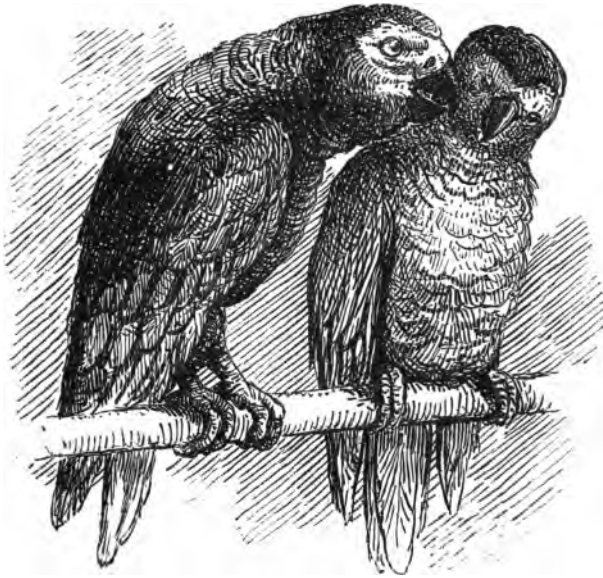
the fruit-covered branches, and hoarsely crying. They were wiser than most birds, however, having gained caution by long experience, for their brilliant colours and long plumes render them desirable in the eyes of every Indian. They were not unwilling to allow us one glimpse, but beyond that we never attained."

"Towards evening," he says again, "we came to a place where the macaws were assembling to roost. Disturbed by our approach, they circled over our heads in great numbers, screaming outrageously. A—— caught up a gun, and as one of them fell plump into the water, men, women, and children set up a shout of admiration. Two of the boys were instantly in the stream in chase of the bird, which was making rapid strokes towards a clump of bushes. Macaw arrived first, and for joy at his deliverance laughed in exultation; but a blow of a pole knocked him into the water again, and a towel over his nose soon made him prisoner upon our own terms. The poor fellow struggled lustily, roaring and using bill and toes to good purpose. His sympathizing brethren flew round and round, screaming in concert, and it was not until another shot had cut off the tail

of one of the most noisy, that they began to credit us with being in earnest. Our specimen was of the blue and yellow variety. During the night we sailed by trees where those birds were roosting, and upon one branch A—— counted eighteen. Further on he saw a pair of hyacinthine macaws—entirely blue, the rarest variety on the river.”

Some parrots exhibit strong affections. Mr. Bingley tells of a pair of parrots that were lodged together in a large square cage. They usually sat on the highest perch, and close to each other. When one descended for food, the other always followed; and when their hunger was satisfied they returned together to their usual resting-place. They passed four years together in this cage, and it was evident that a strong affection existed between the two. But after a while the female began to exhibit symptoms of old age. She could no longer descend to take her food as formerly. The male then assiduously attended on her, bringing food in his bill, and putting it into hers. He continued in this way to feed her with the utmost care for about four months. But her weakness increased, and at last she

seemed unable to keep her seat on the perch, but sank down to the bottom of the cage, where she remained, crouched up in one of the corners. She sometimes seemed to wish to rise again—at



AFFECTIONATE PARROT.

least as far as the lower perch—and her partner eagerly seconded her efforts, sometimes seizing her wing, sometimes her bill, to try to draw her up to him; his gestures and eager solicitude

showing his earnest desire to assist her weakness and alleviate her sufferings. At length her death evidently approached; and now he passed round and round her without ceasing, redoubling his assiduities. He tried to open her bill, so as to give her food; but all in vain; and he paced to and fro in the highest agitation. Sometimes he uttered plaintive cries; at other times he would sit for hours with his eyes fixed upon her. At length she expired. He languished for a few months, and then followed her.

The green Amazon Parrot is considered a very good one to keep as a pet.

There is a wonderful story of one belonging to a gentleman living in Huddersfield, of which it is said that when the baby cried it would use the exact words of the nurse to pacify it. When the bird saw the steam gushing from the spout of the kettle, he would exclaim, "The kettle boils; make the tea!" When a storm lowered, this parrot became very uneasy, and would keep shuffling from one end of its perch to the other, ejaculating, "Ain't it dark! I think it will rain." A dinner-party was once given, the parrot being present all the time. One of the gentlemen stammered very

much; and it was observed that whenever he spoke, the bird was very attentive. After dinner, the stammering gentleman sauntered up to the parrot's cage, and said, "Well, P-p-p-p-poll, what's o'clock?" On which the parrot immediately replied, "P-p-p-p-past four!" imitating the stammer so capitally that the stammerer could not himself help laughing.

Nothing seemed to afford it so much pleasure as mischief. When its cage was hung at the window, it would amuse itself by hailing every fruit-vendor or itinerant merchant that passed below, and then chuckle in the most hearty way at their bewilderment.

Opposite his owner's residence there were some buildings in course of erection; and the men at the top of the scaffold were in the habit of calling to those below for such material as they wanted: "More bricks," "More mortar," and so on. In a very short time Poll had these terms by heart, as well as the gruff tones in which they were uttered. No sooner did the Irish labourer relieve himself of a load, than the everlasting cry, "More mortar," assailed his ears. He bore it with exemplary patience till the mortar-board at the

top of the scaffold was piled up; but once more the order for "Mortar—more mortar," was given. Then, to the delight of the parrot's master, who was standing by, the Irishman flung down his hod, and making a speaking-trumpet of his hands, bawled to the bricklayers above, "Is it mor-r-tar mad that ye are? Sure a man nade have as many legs as a centrepig (centipede) to wait on the likes o' ye's!"

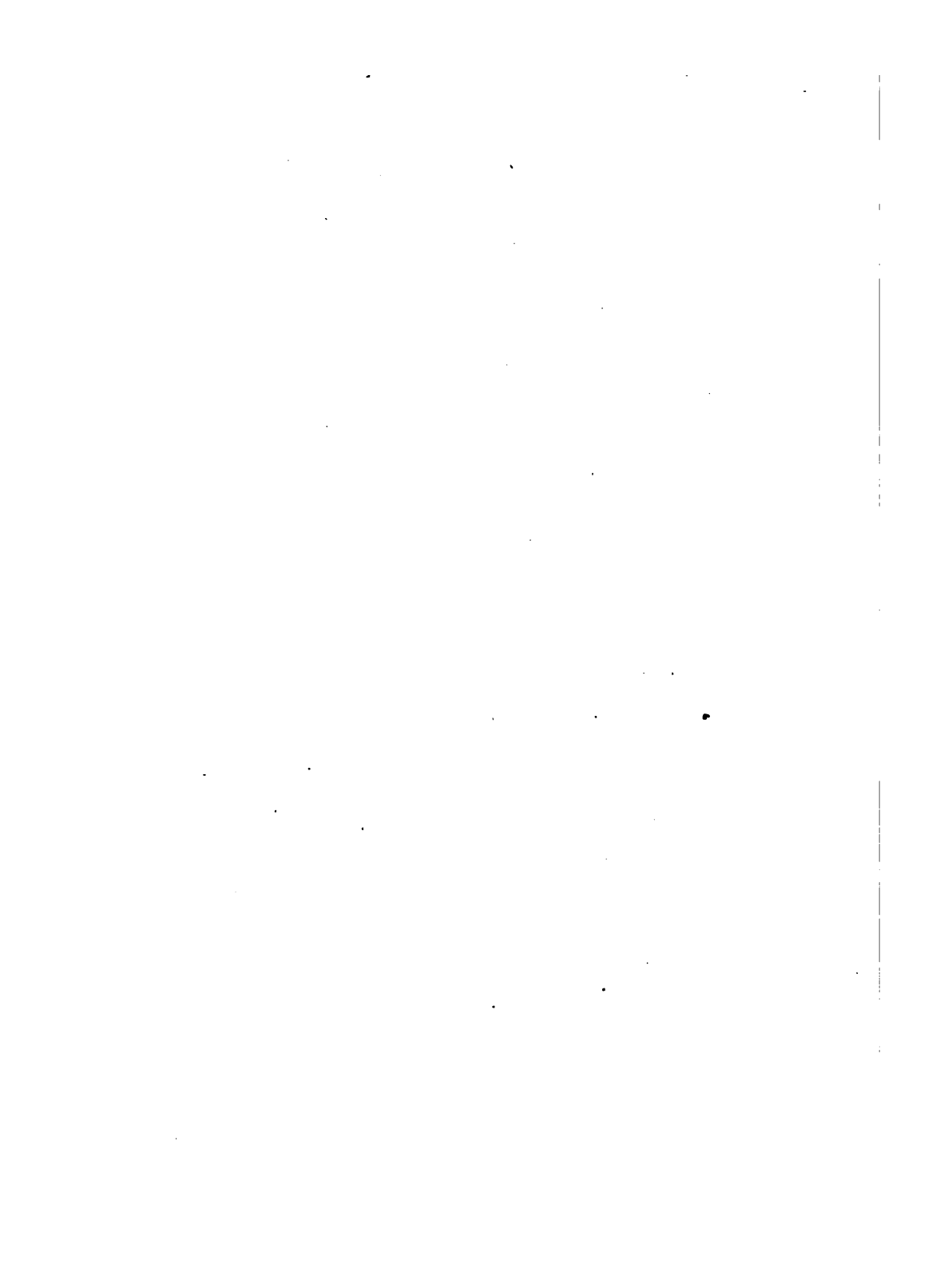
It is a pleasant thing, no doubt, to exercise any power that we possess; and the parrot seems to find unceasing pleasure in its power of imitation.

The following instance is one, however, in which a particular parrot's efforts were attended with serious consequences.

The bird was kept near the quay in a sea-port town; and it had learned to imitate the word used by carters in backing their horses so as to bring the waggon into a convenient position for loading or unloading. One day a horse and cart had been left for a few moments unattended, near the water's edge, and were presently spied by the mischievous parrot, who cried in a gruff voice, "Woa, back!" The horse accordingly backed,



“WOA, BACK!”



and did it again and again, as the delighted bird repeated the command, till horse and vehicle tipped over the stone coping, and the poor animal was drowned.

One parrot, when he dropped anything, used always to say, "Pick up baby's crust." Another always said, "Thank you," when anything was given to him.

At Camden, New Jersey, the following circumstance is said to have happened :—

A Mr. John Hutchinson had a very loquacious parrot, as well as a well-stored plate-chest. One day some robbers thought to have secured some of this plate for their own use, and broke into the place where it was kept. They were just on the point of securing the booty, when they heard a loud and strange voice call out, "You lazy rascals, I see you! John, bring my revolver!" The thieves instantly made a rush for the window, which they had forced open, and in their trepidation got into the yard of a neighbour who had a fierce dog, which began to bark and attack. The consequence was, that one of the three men was seized.

This was probably an American parrot.

Another, of what kind I do not know, had been stolen from a Mr. Davis, and sold to a Mr. Moore. The matter came before a magistrate, and the plaintiff, taking the bird on his finger, said, "Come, old boy, give me a kiss;" which the parrot instantly did. A youth in the defendant's interest remarked that this proved nothing, as the parrot would kiss anybody. "You had better not try," said the plaintiff. Nevertheless, the young man asked the parrot to kiss him. Poll advanced as if to give the required salute, but seized the youth's lip, and made him roar with pain. This fact, and the parrot's obeying the plaintiff in several other requisitions, caused it to be instantly ordered into the possession of its original master.

Of the Carolina Parrot, Alexander Wilson thus writes:—

"Anxious to try the effect of education on one which I purchased, and which had only just been caught, I fixed up a place for it in the stern of my boat, and fed it with some cockle-burrs, the food of which these birds are especially fond. It was hungry, and fed freely in an hour after I had it. When I left the

river and travelled by land, I wrapped the bird up in a silk handkerchief, and carried it in my pocket. When I stopped anywhere for refreshment, I released my prisoner, and gave it an allowance, which it generally despatched with great dexterity, unhusking the seeds from the burr in a twinkling.

“In recommitting it to its confinement, we generally had a quarrel, and it frequently paid me in kind, cutting and disabling several of my fingers with its sharp and powerful bill.

“When I encamped in the woods, I placed it on the baggage beside me, where it generally sat, with great composure, dozing, and gazing at the fire, till morning. In this manner I carried it upwards of a thousand miles, exposed all day to the jolting of the horse, but always liberated at meal-times and in the evening; at which it always expressed great satisfaction. On arriving at Natchez, I procured a cage, and placed it under the piazza, where, by its call, it soon attracted crowds of its fellows. Numerous parties alighted on the trees around, and kept up a constant conversation with the prisoner. One of these I wounded slightly; it fell, and the pleasure

Poll expressed on meeting with this new companion was amusing. She crept up to it ; chattered to it in a low tone of voice, as if sympathizing in its misfortune ; scratched its head with her bill ; and both, at night, nestled as close to each other as possible.

“ We reached New Orleans. In a short space of time she had learnt to know her name ; to answer, and to come when called ; to climb up my clothes, to sit on my shoulder, and to eat from my hands. I took her with me to sea, hoping to persevere in her education ; but poor Poll, one morning, before daybreak, worked her way out of the cage, and, before I was awake, flew overboard, and I saw her no more.”

Most of the parrot tribe that have been brought to this country are caught young, and in the nest. But adult birds are sometimes taken when stupefied by eating the seeds of the cotton-tree, of which they are very fond ; or they are shot with arrows, which, having buttons at the end of them, stun the birds, but do not injure them.

D'Aquara says that the natives of Paraguay take them in a very singular manner. They

make a sort of cabin, covered with palm-leaves, close to some tree frequented by parrots. In this a fowler conceals himself, having with him a tame parrot, which by its cries attracts the wild ones from the forest, and these never fail to come at the voice of the prisoner. The hunter quickly passes round their necks a running knot, attached to the end of a long wand, which he moves from within his cabin. If he has five or six of these wands he can take as many parrots; for they will not attempt to escape unless the cord presses tightly on their necks.

These birds can all be more or less educated while young. By means of rewards and punishments they can be taught to talk and perform tricks. Some people puff tobacco into their faces, or plunge them into very cold water when they refuse to speak, or do anything they are bid; and when very obedient, they receive sugar or sweet wine. Some will lie down and rise up at the master's word, or do certain tricks with a stick. And when in good spirits, in a warm room where the sun shines, if let out of the cage, most parrots will enjoy a little mischief, such as stealing things out of plates, pens, or little bits of paper, and

then rushing back to the cage with the prizes, muttering a kind of chuckle.

Parraquets, though not so clever, are, to my thinking, prettier in their ways, and more engaging ; and South America has many of these, which go in flocks, and are of all sizes and shapes.





CHAPTER XI.

AMERICAN MONKEYS.

THE American monkeys are called sometimes Sapajous, and by naturalists, Cebidæ. In some species of these the thumbs of the fore-paws are wanting or imperfect. It is so in the Chameck, which is a native of Brazil, very gentle and capable of learning, and not so liable to fly into passions as the Old World monkeys.

They have no cheek pouches, and no callosities on the hinder quarters, as those monkeys have. They have four more teeth—that is, thirty-six instead of thirty-two—and *prehensile* tails.

The monkey, indeed, has not only the power of clinging with its tail to anything it crosses—as

the bough of a tree—and hanging its whole weight in this manner; but the end of it being sensitive and naked, can be used just in the same manner and for the same purposes as a hand.

There are therefore several distinctions between the Old and New World monkeys. But in each quarter of the globe there are several kinds. One group of the American family consists of the Spider Monkeys, long, sprawling creatures, which nevertheless go on two legs better than most of their kind.

The Coiata, or Quata, is one of these; and, strange to tell, when it wants to walk erect, it either helps itself along by its tail, with which it clings to everything it comes near; or else balances itself with it, swinging it about in every direction. When they use it in this way, they bend it into the shape of the letter S.

This tail is almost as sensitive as a bat's wing, so sensitive that one would almost say the creature saw with it; and, besides that, it can with this tail, pick up the very smallest objects. And its power of suspending itself by its tail is most extraordinary. It will cling and hang by it, so that even after death it remains clinging.

These Spider Monkeys abound in Brazil. They sit for hours on the branches, doing nothing, for they are very lazy, or they just cling and swing in groups from tree to tree; but when angry, they move fast enough.

Perhaps the most amusing of their habits is their manner of crossing a river. They have a strong dislike to water, and, indeed, they will rather do anything than wet a hair.

A troop of Coiatas, amounting perhaps to a hundred or more, in making an expedition, as is their habit, find a tolerably wide stream of water crossing their path, or possibly nothing less than a river. What is to be done? It is a matter that requires consideration, and the older monkeys go forward and examine the locality. They do not act in a hurry, nor without plenty of consultation. But they look out for a spot where on each bank the trees incline towards the river, and are near to the bank—a river without trees would not answer their purpose at all.

But having selected a good tree with overhanging boughs, the most powerful of the monkeys runs to it, and mounting, twists his tail firmly round the branch, letting his head hang down.

Then another mounts, and sliding down the body of the first one, twists his tail round him, then another and another, until a long chain of them is formed, and the lowest touches the ground. This he keeps pushing with his paws until he makes the whole chain swing more and more; and at last it sways so much that the last one can seize the nearest branch on the other side.

Then he draws himself up till he gets a hold of a strong bough higher up. The bridge is finished then, and at a given signal all the other monkeys climb the first tree, and cross by its means, many of the young ones taking the opportunity of playing off all sorts of practical jokes on the bodies of their companions as they do so.

But how is the bridge itself to get over? We might think this a puzzle, but monkeys do not. Two or three of the stoutest have remained behind for this emergency, and now they mount the tree, and relieve the first monkey from his fatiguing task of sustaining the whole by clinging to the tree. The new one joins himself on, and takes the work on himself, a little lengthening the chain by so doing. The last one or two then clamber up the tree as high as it will bear them,

and take a firm hold of some strong branch. Then a second signal is given; the last monkey on the bank they are leaving relaxes his hold, and the living suspension-bridge swings across the river, the lowermost, perhaps, getting a little wetting in the passage, but the rest escaping altogether. We can imagine the strain on the one monkey at the other end; but he bears it bravely until the operation is concluded, and then down he comes from the tree, and the whole company proceed on their march. Travellers need hardly say, as they do, that this is an amusing scene. It is really impossible to imagine anything more so.

They are small animals, these Coiatas—only about a foot long from the tip of the nose to the root of the tail, while that member measures two feet. Their faces are copper-coloured, and their skins and hair elsewhere nearly black and glossy.

Like some of their larger brethren in Africa, these monkeys disapprove of intruders into what they consider their own territories. Yet they seem to make distinctions between friends and foes; for, if a stranger appear, they descend from

the trees and take a good gaze at him. If they approve of his appearance, well and good, he may go on his way in peace; but, if not, the whole troop scramble up the trees again as fast as possible, and begin breaking off the branches, nuts, if at hand, or any solid fruits, and so pelting the unfortunate traveller, that he is glad to make his escape as soon as possible.

The Chameck and Coiata both live in Central America; and so does another of the same group, namely, the Marimonda, which chiefly inhabits Spanish Guiana, and which is said very much to resemble the long-legged spider—so small are their heads, so short their bodies, and so long and slender their limbs and tail; besides, like the spiders, they are awkward and scuttling in their gait on the ground, but active and agile when in the trees, as that is on the lines of its nets.

The Marimonda is not so dark as the Coiata, and not at all glossy, but very hairy. It makes a tolerably mild and gentle pet, and is very fond of sitting lazily basking in the sun, with its head thrown back, and its eyes turned up. Now and then it will fling back its arms over its head.

Then there is the Miriki, or Mono, as some

call it, which has thick, short fur, used sometimes by hunters to cover the locks of their guns on rainy days, because it is famous for repelling the action of water. The Miriki has also a curious sort of moustache, and a better thumb on its fore-paws than have most of the Spider Monkeys.

Mr. Wood gives an amusing account of a female Miriki that belonged to a captain in the navy, and was called Sally. She was a native of British Guiana, a most gentle creature, and as great a pet with her master as if she were a child. He always said, that if she bit anybody, it was always in self-defence, and the person's own fault. He had her photographed several times, and in one picture she was represented with her arm affectionately round the coxswain's neck, and her tail coiled round his right hand, on which she was partly sitting.

When on board ship Sally was left quite at liberty; and she would revel among the rigging, and sometimes dance on a rope "like a full-grown spider in convulsions"—such antics did she cut, and so impossible was it to distinguish her tail from her legs. She delighted also to climb to one of the small spars, coil her tail

round it, and swing head downwards, rubbing her arms against the nearest object.

And yet this strange, wild little being sat down each day by the captain to dinner like a human being, keeping to her own plate, and eating, very properly, vegetables, sopped bread, and sometimes being indulged with a chicken-bone for a great treat. But if any one gave her a stale bit of bread she threw it down with disdain, after well smelling at it, and then ignored its existence. Used in her infancy to only tropical fruits, she nevertheless took and ate an apple the first time one was offered to her. So trusted was she, that on landing at Belize she was allowed to roam the town as she liked ; and her master heard her one morning uttering her curious little croak of recognition from a balcony on which she was seated.

All the officers of the ship petted her ; but once having a little dinner-party amongst themselves, they got her into a great scrape. They fed her with various fruits that she loved, and among the rest, with olives, which she highly appreciated ; but the salt juice made her so thirsty, that she pushed her nose into a tumbler of brandy-and-water, and drank nearly the whole of the con-

tents, to their great amusement, but to her own speedy misery.

The captain was not present at the table, but going into his cabin soon afterwards, he found her all huddled together, and so tipsy, that she scarcely raised her head at his voice.

After that, it was quite needless to charge the officers never again to tempt her so; for she attributed her misery to the right cause, and would never touch brandy again.

The ship sailed once northwards, and as she was clothed very warmly, she stood the cold even of Newfoundland pretty well, though she was continually shivering, as if to intimate her extreme dislike of it.

There were, however, two young Newfoundland dogs on board, which had a house of their own, well supplied with straw. So Miss Sally made friends with them; and she used to creep into their home, put an arm round each neck, and coil her tail about them, too, and then lie warm and happy.

She was, in fact, devoted to these puppies, and most jealous of any one who paid them the least attention. Indeed, she used to shake her

arms at such persons in the most threatening way, as if she would kill them.

She had a kennel of her own, but did not like any covering over her head; so would never go



MIRIKI AND PUPPIES.

into it, preferring to coil herself up among the hammock nettings.

When still a young monkey, her little, wizened face gave her the appearance of great age.

Humboldt speaks of the Howling Monkeys, or

Alouattes, creatures of a very different character from the last, with whom he met when journeying in South America. Other travellers say that no one who has once heard their horrid yells can ever forget them, and that it can be perceived distinctly at the distance of a mile.

"The rising of the sun," says an author who describes Humboldt's travels, "was announced by the howling of monkeys, of which we saw numerous bands moving, as if in procession, from one tree to another. These creatures execute their evolutions with singular uniformity. When the boughs of two trees do not touch each other, the leader of the party swings himself by the tail upon the nearest twigs, the rest following in regular succession. The Indians assert that one always chants as leader of the choir."

At one time Humboldt and his companions passed the night on a bare and extensive beach. "The adjoining forest being impenetrable, they had great difficulty in obtaining dry wood to light fires for the purpose of keeping off wild beasts. But the night was calm, with beautiful moonlight. Finding no tree on the banks, they stuck their oars in the sand, and suspended their hammocks

upon them. About eleven, there arose in the wood so terrific a noise, that it was impossible to sleep. The Indians distinguished the cries of sapajous, alouattes (howling monkeys), jaguars, congars, pecaris, sloths, curassoros, parraquets, and other gallinaceous birds." Sometimes there was a long silence, and then an outburst, as if there was some dispute among them.

One kind of Howling Monkey, named the Araguatos, have a habit of holding conversations, in which each party seems to be trying to out-yell the other. Some suppose, however, that all these noises are but the serenades addressed by monkey lovers to their loves.

As might be surmised, these Howlers are far less gentle than their Spider Monkey cousins. They are larger and more brutal, and by some considered to represent, in America, the African Baboon.

They are captured by hunters in a curious way. The emptied shell of a certain nut with a small opening, of a plant called lecythis, is filled with sugar—a great temptation to the monkey tribe. The hunters then hide themselves, and down come the monkeys to secure the prize. They get

their hands in, but they cannot get them out, unless by leaving the sugar behind. This nothing will induce them to do ; and so, while they are engrossed with the prize, and short of one hand, out come the hunters, and easily catch them.

The Capucin Monkey is of quite a different kind—a lively, playful little creature, of a golden olive tint, which makes friends with any animal that happens to live with it—a cat or a dog, for instance—and it is a great favourite, as a pet animal, with Indians and Europeans alike. One of these that Humboldt happened to meet with, used every day to seize on some unfortunate pig, and ride on its back all day long, wherever it wandered in the savannahs.

One kind has the hair on the front of its head standing erect like two horns ; but not till it is grown up do these horns appear in perfection. This is called the Horned Capucin.

THE CALLITHRIX.

This word means “beautiful hair ;” but from their size, shape, and movements, these are sometimes called Squirrel Monkeys. They are really pretty monkeys.

Humboldt speaks of the Tee-tee or Titi, which is a native of Brazil. It is of a greyish olive colour, with golden hue in parts, a light grey underneath, and the tip of its long tail is black.

Humboldt bought one of a native, and he found it most sagacious. As one instance of its quickness, he relates, that when he one day showed to his little pet an uncoloured engraving of certain animals, it instantly put out its little hand to catch a grasshopper represented in it. This is a sort of intelligence that no dog has been known to exhibit.

The Collared Tee-tee is one of the most clever and engaging, perhaps, of the whole monkey race. It is quite gentle, and most affectionate, scarcely ever getting angry. It has all sorts of pretty ways; sometimes entreating by most imploring gestures, and shrinking away like an infant when alarmed.

They like to sit on any good friend's shoulder, and put their little fingers on his lips; and when any one speaks, they watch the motion of his lips, as if trying thus to learn the language of human beings; and they have a pleasant, musky smell.

The Tee-tees are unlike other American mon-

keys in one particular, that their tails are not prehensile. They are very beautiful furry tails, and can be wrapped round any object, though they have no clinging power.

THE CUXIO.

This monkey is a great contrast to the last kind, both in appearance and temper. It has an immense beard, of which, like the Diana Monkey, it seems to be very proud. In fact, it is as particular about its beard as a parrot is about its tail. The Diana Monkey will hold its beard on one side while it drinks; but the Cuxio avoids the danger of wetting his by scooping up the water in the palm of its hand, and carefully conveying it to its mouth. It does this when not watched; but apparently not liking to seem over-particular, it drinks before spectators like other monkeys. It has also a very large, bushy tail, and is altogether a savage-looking animal—as, in fact, it really is.

Humboldt made acquaintance with this monkey, too, and saw it, when enraged, drive its sharp teeth deeply into a plank, or grind its teeth savagely, and jump up, grinning horribly, and rubbing the end of its long tail.

The Cuxio does not go in troops, but is content with the society of its mate and young ones. Moreover, it goes out mostly at night, and its powerful cry can be heard a long way off.

The Black Yarke, or White-headed Saki, an elegant creature, with a thick head of white hair, is closely allied to the Cuxio, as is the Cacajao, with its black head and short tail.

This short tail was long a puzzle to many, who supposed that by some accident, or by the teeth of the monkey itself, the tail had got docked; but these are not the opinions of the country. Some call it the Mono Rabon; and indeed it has many names. We don't know much of it in its wild state; but in captivity it is a gentle, timid creature, which would tremble at the sight of a lizard or serpent—sometimes even of a monkey of another kind.

Mrs. Lee relates some amusing particulars of a monkey which had been taken to Paris and trained to do a variety of clever tricks. "I met him, one day," says she, "suddenly, as he was going up the drawing-room stairs. He made way for me by standing in an angle, and when I said 'Good morning,' took off his cap, and made me a

low bow. 'Are you going away?' I asked. 'Where is your passport?'. Upon which, he took from the same cap a square piece of paper, which he opened and showed to me. His master told him that my gown was dusty; and he instantly took a small brush from his master's pocket, raised the hem of my dress, cleaned it, and then did the same for my shoes. He was perfectly docile and obedient. When we gave him something to eat, he did not cram his pouches with it, but delicately and tidily devoured it; and when we bestowed money on him, he immediately put it into his master's hands."

A new monkey was brought to Mr. Buckland's knowledge, only a year or two back—the Douroucouli. He met with it, suddenly, on passing through Liverpool. But it had been described by Humboldt, in his "Journey up the Oronooko." Its head is large and round; muzzle short; no external ear; eyes very large; tail long. It is covered with a soft greyish-white fur, with a line of brown along the centre of the back. The face is more like that of a cat than of a quadrumanous animal; the mouth is surrounded with strong, white, bristly hairs.

The Douroucoulis is the only monkey of the Orinoco which sleeps during the day. When disturbed, it appears almost in a state of lethargy. It may be touched without danger, and its mouth and teeth may be examined. But if sluggish during the day, it is restless all night. It then seeks its food; hunts small birds and insects; but will also eat almost every kind of vegetable. The voice, for its size, is exceedingly powerful.

One of these little animals lived in one of the pigeon-holes in Mr. Buckland's desk. His eyes, when aroused, shone like fire. At night he was very lively, and jumped about incessantly. The other monkeys would not acknowledge him. Being placed in a cage above theirs, they found his tail hanging down, which they pulled violently. The poor fellow cried out terribly, and the parrot seemed to think it a good joke.

The Douroucoulis is found chiefly in Guiana and Brazil.

In the same country also lives the really beautiful little monkey, known as the Marmoset—a very tiny creature, with soft, long fur of an orange hue, a ray of white hair over each ear, and a long

tail, encircled with many black rings. It is a gentle, but not very intelligent creature, shrinks much from cold, and loves to have its house well filled with soft, warm bedding, which it always keeps heaped up in a corner. It feeds a good deal upon cock-roaches. It is silent, except when startled; then it utters a sharp whistle. It is seven inches long. The Pinche is about the same size, and has a soft, gentle voice, like the twittering of a bird, and a tuft of long white hair over its head.

The Marikina is, perhaps, prettier than either, and has soft, shining hair, of a golden chestnut hue, so that it is sometimes called the Silky Monkey, or the Lion Monkey, because its little face looks out like a lion's from under its mane. The Marikina is most particular about personal cleanliness; and in captivity, if its little house be not kept very nice, it pines and dies. It much dislikes solitude, and has a soft, gentle voice. About the same size as the other two.

The Marmoset, when trained, will sit on its owner's hand, its paws round his fingers, and its tail coiled round his wrist. It has a great fancy for hair, and likes to play with its owner's locks as an infant would. One, when in a pet, used to bite

the ends of his mistress's curls—sometimes would pull a tress down to nibble at.

The Capucins are of different colours ; some a deep brown, some a sort of ink-and-water colour, and some a kind of chestnut ; and their fringed crests are tipped with grey.

There is one kind of them, called the Sai, or Weeper Monkey, which is very quaint and amusing in its ways. These, like most monkeys, are fond of vegetable food, but they eat eggs, and some kinds of insects, too, while they do not always despise birds. At any rate, a linnet allowed to go into a cage in which two of them were confined, was caught and eaten by the strongest one, and that so eagerly, that the monkey did not even stop to pluck its feathers.

The Anarines are singular creatures. "Every day," says one writer, "both morning and evening, they assemble in the woods to receive instructions. When all come together, one among the number takes the highest place on a tree, and makes a signal with his hand for the rest to sit round, in order to hearken. As soon as he sees them placed, he begins his discourse with so loud a voice, and yet in a manner so precipitate, that to

hear him at a distance, one would think the whole company were crying out at the same time ; however, during that time one only is speaking, and all the rest observe the most profound silence. When this is done, he makes a sign with the hand for the rest to reply, and at that instant they raise their voices together, until by another signal of the hand they are enjoined silence. This they as readily obey, till at last the whole assembly breaks up after hearing a repetition of the same preachment."

Professor Cope had a tame monkey [of the common Capucin sort. The creature was kept in a cage, or rather was supposed to be kept in it ; but it had a strong objection to confinement, and never failed to get loose sooner or later. He generally directed his attention to the hinges ; and no matter how firmly they were fixed, the monkey always managed before long to extract the staples, pull out the nails, and so open the door at the hinges, and not at the latch. Finding that the cage could not hold him, his master had him confined by a strap, fastened round his waist, after the manner of monkeys. But the strap proved of no more use than the cage, for

the monkey soon contrived to open it. This he did by picking out the threads by which the straps were sewn to the buckles, and so rendering the fastening useless. But having rid himself of the strap, he thought he might apply it to some practical purpose. Having perceived that some food had fallen out of his reach, he took the strap, threw it over the morsel of food, and so drew it towards him.

Mr. Wood tells a story of an ingenious monkey—I do not know of what species. A great humble-bee that had maimed itself was pushed into the cage with some monkeys. "They were much alarmed at the entrance of such a strange intruder. They approached it with great care, under evident trepidation. At last one of them, having well considered the matter, picked up a piece of paper which some one had thrown into the cage, and dextrously twisted it up into a sugar-loaf form. He then carefully approached the humble-bee, which was lying on its back, spinning round and round, and making a great hubbub, and swept it in an instant into the paper receptacle, twisting it up without a moment's hesitation, and then patted it and rolled it about till

the poor bee's noise was effectually stopped by its being mashed into a pulp. And then, gathering courage, the monkey boldly snatched up the paper and flung it through the bars of the cage."

Mr. Buckland describes a mischievous monkey of his own, but does not mention his species. "Jacko," he says, "was a pretty little fellow; his bright eyes sparkled like two diamonds from beneath his deep-set eyebrows; his teeth were of pearly whiteness, and of these, whether through pride or a wish to intimidate, he made a formidable display." At the hotel where his master stayed, a little closet served as a temporary prison for him. "Jacko was tied (I thought) securely to one of the rows of pegs that ran along the wall. As the door closed upon him, his sparkling eyes seemed to say, 'Now I'll do some mischief!' and sure enough he did. When I came back to release him, the walls, which half an hour before were covered with an ornamented paper, now stood out in the nakedness of lath and plaster; the pegs were all loosened, and an unfortunate garment that happened to be hung in the closet was torn into a thousand pieces.

"It became quite evident that Jacko could not

be allowed to be at liberty, and a prison of some kind must be found for him. A blue bag, such as is commonly used by lawyers' clerks, was procured, and some hay placed at the bottom for his bed. Thus he arrived at the station at Southampton, on his way to London. While the tickets were procuring, Jacko, who must needs see everything, suddenly poked his head out of the bag, and gave a grin at the ticket-collector. 'That's a dog,' said the man; 'you must pay three-and-sixpence for it.' Jacko was made to exhibit himself, but it was of no avail. The collector would not alter his decision—'That's a dog!' Mr. Buckland put his hand into his pocket, and pulled out a tortoise, asking, 'Must I pay for this too!' 'No,' said the collector, 'no charge for them, sir; them be insects.'

"When Jacko arrived at his ultimate destination, a comfortable home was provided for him in the stall of a stable, where was an aperture communicating with the hay-loft, so that he could either sleep at his ease in the regions above, or, descending into the manger, amuse himself by tearing to pieces everything he could get at. But after awhile the donkey was brought out of the field and placed in

these comfortable quarters. A supper of hay was placed before the hungry animal, which it began to devour with great eagerness. An hour after, the groom happened to go into the stable to see that all was right. But now the donkey was pulling away at her halter, and trying to keep her head as far as possible from the bundle of hay. Soon the mystery was explained. When the donkey approached the hay, a pair of tiny hands were thrust out, and the ears were seized. The little rascal, looking down from the loft, had seen the hay spread out, and had thought that it would make a capital bed for himself, of which he had, therefore, taken possession, quite regardless of poor Jenny.

“In this stable Jacko found out for himself one capital amusement, which was catching mice. The servants soon perceived his ability in this line, and when the old cat grew ill, and scarcely equal to her duties, they determined to make Jacko’s talents available. They took him out of his comfortable bed in the loft, and chained him up in the larder, having previously removed every eatable and drinkable thing, except some jam-pots, which were on a shelf, high up, and well secured by a

bladder stretched over the tops. But they entirely underrated Jacko's talents for mischief. The mice ran about, all night, unregarded. But the jam-pots had been ransacked, and poor Jacko was a sick monkey when they released him next morning.

"After a while Jacko got loose. He now sneaked into the knife-house, and tried his hand at cleaning knives. But the handles were the parts he attempted to polish on the brick-board, and a cut was found on the middle of his hand next day. He next set to work to clean the shoes, in imitation of the man who had charge of him. He covered a boot all over, sole and all, with blacking, and then he emptied all that was left in the inside of the boot, nearly filling it. A day or two after, when the servants returned from the parlour into the kitchen, they found that Jacko had taken all the candlesticks out of the cupboard, and arranged them on the fender before the fire, as he had seen done. Finding the black-lead in the same place, he took it to a bowl of water, wetted it, and was diligently rubbing the table all over with it, when he was caught in the act. On the entrance of the servants he retreated to his

basket in the corner, trying to look as if nothing had happened."



BLACKING BOOTS.

Mr. Buckland also tells another story, which is as follows:—"I have two monkeys, of whom I am exceedingly fond. One is the 'Hag,' and the other is 'Tiny.' The Hag was originally

called 'Fanny,' but she had so much of the disagreeable old woman about her, that I always called her 'the Hag.' Tiny is a very little monkey—indeed, not much bigger than a large rat. She was turned out of the Zoological Gardens as a dead monkey ; she was, indeed, 'as good as dead'—a mere skeleton, and with very little hair on her. She arrived tied up in an old canvas bag. I put her into the Hag's cage. The old Hag at once took to her, and assumed the office of nurse. She cuddled up poor Tiny in her arms, and showed her white teeth to anybody who came near. They had port wine, quinine, beef tea, eggs and milk, and everything she could eat ; and the Hag always gave her the first offer of everything. After awhile, Tiny could stand ; then she could run ; her hair came again ; and she is now one of the most wicked, intelligent, pretty little beasts that ever committed an act of theft. Steal ! why, her whole life is devoted to stealing, for the pure love of the thing. The moment I come down to breakfast I let out the monkeys. I keep a box of sardines especially for the Hag, who immediately helps herself, and sits on the table grunting with pleasure as she licks her oily fingers. The

moment Tiny is let loose, she steals whatever is on the table ; and it is great fun to see her snatch up the red-herring from the plate, and run off with it to the top of the book-shelves. While I am recovering my herring, Tiny runs to the breakfast-table, and, if she can, she steals the egg. This she tucks under her arm, and bolts away, running on her hind legs. But she is rather fearful of eggs, for she once stole one that was quite hot, and burnt herself. She cried out, and the Hag left off eating sardines, shook her tail violently, and opened her mouth at me, as much as to say, ' You dare hurt my Tiny ! ' If I keep too sharp a look-out upon Miss Tiny, she will run like a rabbit across the table, and upset whatever she can. She generally tries the sugar first, as she can steal there a bit ; or she will just pull over the milk-jug. Tiny and the Hag sometimes go out stealing together. They climb up my coat, and search all my pockets. I generally carry some cedar-pencils ; the monkeys get hold of these, and bite off the cut ends. But the prime delight is to pull and try the door of a glass cupboard, till it comes open, and then they get at the hair-oil, which they know is there. Any new

thing that comes they must examine, and when a hamper arrives I let the monkeys unpack it, especially if I know that it contains game. They generally end by upsetting the basket. Once I received a snake in a basket, and I let the monkeys unpack it. I knew that they had a mortal horror of snakes. When they found out what was inside, they flew off as fast and as far as possible, crying out in their language, 'Murder! thieves!' The parrot talks at them, but they care nothing for old Poll. Tiny steals her seed, and while she runs after Tiny, the Hag pulls her tail. Tiny is very attentive to her old friend. She takes much of what she steals to the Hag's cage, and is fond of poking paper through the bars. These things the old monkey tears up merely to pass away the time."

Tales and biographical sketches of this kind are so numerous, that it would become monotonous, if we were to repeat a tenth part of them. A single observation, however, on one feature of the Monkey tribe may be offered before we close.

Among all the various families of four-footed or

four-handed beasts, the two classes or species which present the greatest variety of form, and size, and strength, are surely the Dog and the Monkey. Other classes, such as the bull, the horse, or the sheep, have but a few differences. The cow or ox may be found of larger or smaller kind, but nearly alike in general form or figure. The horse shows us sometimes the mighty charger or ponderous draught-horse, and at other times the elegant pony ; but here again the difference is chiefly in mere size. But with the dog, and the ape or monkey, the various forms, sizes, powers, and dispositions seem almost endless. Look at the grand and powerful mastiff, or the beautiful, but widely dissimilar dog of Newfoundland ; and then turn to the little pug, or still smaller toy-terrier, which its mistress conceals in her muff : or to the elegant Italian greyhound ; does it not seem strange that all these seemingly different creatures should belong to one and the same family, and should, all alike, bear the common name of Dog ?

And the same variety appears in the Monkey tribe. We have toy-monkeys as well as toy-terriers. We have little pets, whom the youngest children

do not fear ; and yet we have apes so large and so strong that even our English mastiff would be torn to pieces by one of them in a single minute. Here is one of the latest descriptions of the gorilla ape, by a traveller who sought the monster out in his native forests :—

“ It stood about a dozen yards from us, and was a sight I think I shall never forget. Nearly six feet high (he proved four inches shorter), with immense body, huge chest, and great muscular arms, with fiercely-glaring large deep grey eyes, and a hellish expression of face, which seemed to me like some night-mare vision ; there stood before us the king of the African forest. He was not afraid of us. He stood there and beat his breast with his huge fists till it resounded like an immense bass drum ; which is their mode of offering defiance ; sometimes giving vent to roar after roar. The roar of the gorilla is the most singular and awful noise heard in these African woods. It begins with a sharp bark like an angry dog, then glides into a deep bass roll, which literally and closely resembles the roll of distant thunder along the sky, for which I have sometimes been tempted to take it when I did not see the animal.

His eyes began to flash fiercely, for we stood motionless on the defensive, and the crest of short hair which stands on his forehead began to twitch rapidly up and down, while his powerful fangs were shown as he again sent forth a tremendous roar. He advanced a few steps, then stopped to utter that hideous roar again; advanced again, and finally stopped when at the distance of about six yards from us, and then, just as he began another of his roars, beating his breast with rage, we fired and killed him. With a groan which had something terribly human in it, and yet was full of brutishness, he fell forward on his face. The body shook convulsively for a few minutes, the limbs moved about in a struggling way, and then all was quiet; death had done its work, and I had leisure to examine the huge body. It proved to be five feet eight inches high, and the muscular development of the arms and breast showed the immense strength it had possessed."

And then we turn from this formidable brute to the other end of the monkey scale—to the Silky Tamarin, or, as Mr. Wood calls him, "the exquisite little Marikina"—length, about eight inches:—

"One of the prettiest of the Tamarin monkeys," abounding in Brazil, "with long silky fur and soft yellow hair." The beauty of his hair is very striking. "They like to be caressed and fondled;" "its voice is soft and gentle." What a contrast to the enormous gorilla, "who will kill you, if you don't kill him first," and who inhabits and rules in the forests of Western Africa; or to the gigantic orang-outang of Sumatra, sometimes exceeding seven feet in height, and only overcome by the united efforts of a whole boat's crew (p. 12). And yet the Gorilla and the Orang-outang, on the one hand, and the pretty and gentle silky Tamarin, on the other, are of the same family; all the three are alike Monkeys.

We may, perhaps, be reminded of another and a similar case, familiar to us all—the family of the Cats—to which the so-called "King of beasts" belongs, and to which the little white kitten, of last month's growth, the baby's pet, belongs also.

Certainly, this is another instance of the same kind; yet it seems true that in variety of form, as well as of size and strength, the Monkey tribe exceeds every other. Still, whatever tribe

of beasts or birds we study, we shall find plenty in it to wonder and admire ; for each one is perfect in its way.

The Psalmist says, "How manifold are Thy works." There seems no end to the variety of beautiful, and strange, and curious things that God has made. It seems to have been good and pleasant to Him to invent and create all sorts of creatures ; not only the noble and pretty ones, but also the clever, fun-loving parrot and the tricksome monkey. And therefore we may say that it must be good for us to study and take pleasure in all these works.

Only we should not call them, as some people do, "the works of Nature ;" for, as Cowper truly said, a hundred years ago,

"Nature is but a name for an effect,
Whose cause is God."

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